

**Statement of Congressman Walter B. Jones (NC-3)**  
**H.R. 187 – To correct the boundaries of the Coastal Barrier**  
**Resources System Unit L06, Topsail, North Carolina**  
**House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans**  
**April 8, 2014**

- Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for holding this hearing and allowing me to testify on my bill, H.R. 187.
- H.R. 187 would correct a 30-year old federal mapping error made by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The Service wrongly designated the north end of North Topsail Beach as a COBRA zone despite the fact that it was already under development and had a great deal of infrastructure in the ground.
- The Town of North Topsail Beach has provided the subcommittee with extensive research documenting the existence of that infrastructure.
- This error has wrongly prohibited the town of North Topsail Beach and many homeowners from accessing federal programs, including the National Flood Insurance Program and other disaster assistance.
- H.R. 187 would replace the existing incorrect COBRA map for North Topsail Beach with an accurate one.
- The map would result in **no net loss** of acreage to the CBRS system.
- Mr. Chairman, this is not a partisan issue. Senator Kay Hagan has introduced a Senate companion bill to H.R. 187.

- This is about equitable treatment under the law. Areas that were already under development when the CBRA law passed in 1982 were not supposed to be designated as CBRA zones.
- The federal government made an error with North Topsail Beach, and that error needs to be corrected.
- Again, thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you and the members of the committee to move this bill forward.