



County of Dare

Office of the Board of Commissioners

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December 10, 2025

Tom Tiffany
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for your email and, hopefully, your support of HR 4931. As I said in my testimony, the NPS needs the flexibility HR 4931 provides to deal with everyday problems that arise in NPS leases in Dare County and across the country.

H.R. 4931, the **National Park System Long-Term Lease Investment Act** in the current 119th Congress (2025-2026), would benefit communities associated with an undetermined number of the over 400 units managed by the National Park Service (NPS). The specific number of communities is not estimated in the bill's text or related testimony, as the bill provides *flexibility* rather than mandating a specific number of new leases or extensions.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Greg Murphy, aims to support existing public-private partnerships by allowing the Secretary of the Interior to extend certain leases (after five years) without a new competitive bid process if it is in the best interest of the NPS. This provides private partners the certainty needed to invest in and improve facilities, such as the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center at the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, which was used as a key example during a recent committee hearing.

The number of communities that would benefit depends on:

- The number of existing NPS leases (public-private partnerships) across the country that have been in place for at least five years.
- How many of these existing leaseholders choose to seek an extension and make improvements.
- The NPS Director's determination that the extension is in the public's best interest.

While the exact number of communities is not quantified, the bill has the potential to impact a wide range of communities that rely on public-private partnerships to enhance visitor services and conserve historic structures within national parks nationwide.

Dare County is but one of hundreds of communities across the nation that benefit from NPS leases to provide all types of services on federal properties. All of these communities would benefit from legislation allowing the NPS to resolve local problems where a "one size fits all" approach does not work for the benefit of the community or the NPS. HR 4931 provides that much needed flexibility.

Respectfully,

Robert L. "Bob" Woodard, Sr.
Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners