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6 January 2016

Shore Protection Committee
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

RE: Request for Reconsideration

Dear Committee Members:

After hearing the concerns of several constituents I represent in the Georgia General Assembly, and after reviewing testimony and other evidence presented, I am asking for a reconsideration hearing of your vote of December 11th, 2015, which permitted Sea Island Acquisitions LLC to build a groin for the as yet undeveloped property on what is known as the “Spit” on Sea Island.

It is my understanding that the full committee was not present when the December 11th, 2015 vote was taken. It is also my understanding that testimony by experts representing both the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the National Fish and Wildlife Service revealed that a new groin will negatively impact wildlife and threaten marine life. Of particular concern is the potential impact of such an endeavor on the East Beach community of St. Simons Island which lies so near the newly proposed groin.

Since some other states on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts have banned or significantly limited groin-building, coupled with the fact that the first vote by the committee was divided, I would respectfully suggest that it would not prove unreasonable for the full committee to take some more time to revisit this important issue in more detail, where supplementary evidence could be provided and additional expert testimony heard. This would prove to be logical and prudent in my opinion, for, if not conducted judiciously and with great discernment, there is a very real potential to adversely affect other property owners and concerned citizens of both St. Simons Island and Sea Island.

I am hopeful the Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Shore Protection Committee will take the time to support and approve a Reconsideration Hearing and vote on this important question so intrinsic to the health of our coast and prosperity of our community.

Thank you for your service to our State.

Sincerely,

J. Alexander Atwood

cc: DNR Commissioner Mark Williams