



# Friends of Jockey's Ridge

P.O. Box 358 ✦ Nags Head, NC 27959

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April 4, 2024

Rules Review Commission  
1711 New Hope Church Rd  
Raleigh, NC 27609

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Jockey's Ridge to express strong support for the temporary rules adopted by the Coastal Resources Commission. The CRC rules are specific in standard and application. The rules are clearly authorized by the Coastal Area Management Act as amended and are needed to protect the coastal zone, the primary goal of the CAMA.

The recent decision to potentially remove the Area of Environmental Concern (AEC), a crucial designation, poses a significant threat to the environmental integrity and long-term well-being of Jockey's Ridge, a unique coastal geologic formation.

Jockey's Ridge holds immense ecological, scientific, and cultural significance, making it a vital treasure that requires thoughtful preservation measures. The AEC designation, as outlined in 15A NCAC 07H .0507, acknowledges Jockey's Ridge as a unique coastal geologic formation and places it under environmental protection, emphasizing the importance of preventing uncontrolled or incompatible development that could jeopardize its irreplaceable features.

The benefits and protections offered by the AEC designation are indispensable for the preservation of Jockey's Ridge. One such advantage is the regulation that ensures sand migrating off the state property is replenished on the dune, maintaining its volume and preventing relocation or commercial sale. Furthermore, the AEC designation not only safeguards the park from undesirable development but also brings national attention, as evidenced by its listing on the National Park Service website.

An AEC requires a closer examination of proposed activities and intervention, providing time to consider the consequences of actions that could impact this environmental treasure. The national recognition garnered through the AEC designation further enhances the visibility of Jockey's Ridge, attracting over 1 million visitors every year from across the country.

We firmly believe that supporting the temporary rules recently adopted by the Coastal Resources Commission, including the AEC status, is crucial for the continued protection of Jockey's Ridge. It is our collective responsibility to preserve this natural landmark for future generations and ensure that it remains accessible for scientific, educational, and recreational purposes.

In conclusion, we urge the Rules Review Commission to act swiftly and decisively in support of the temporary rules recently adopted by the Coastal Resources Commission. Your commitment to preserving this unique coastal geologic formation is paramount in maintaining the ecological balance and cultural significance that Jockey's Ridge holds for the community and visitors alike.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to the continued protection of Jockey's Ridge State Park.

Sincerely,

Craig Honeycutt  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Friends of Jockey's Ridge



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*This organization is a 501c(3) tax exempt organization, IRS Section 170(b)(2)(iii) for both federal and state tax purposes.  
Our federal tax identification number is 56-1739047.*

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