



TOWN OF ORIENTAL  
PO Office Box 472  
Oriental, North Carolina 28571  
(252) 249-0555 ~ Fax (252) 249-0208  
[www.townoforiental.com](http://www.townoforiental.com)

Representative Keith Kidwell  
16 West Jones Street, Rm. 1206  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

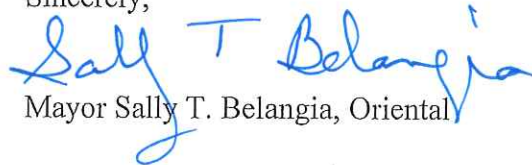
Dear Representative Kidwell,

Beginning in July of 2011, the fight for the Town of Oriental and Pamlico County against the ferry tolls began and it is just as important today as it was when it started. Pamlico County along with Beaufort, Craven, Carteret and Hyde Counties, City of New Bern, City of Havelock, Minnesott Beach, Arapahoe, the Town of Oriental, and many other governmental agencies have produced resolutions against ferry tolls. Never have we seen such unity on an issue among the counties in the east.

Any ferry tolls will hurt our hardworking citizens, tourism and our schools. Remember that it was stated by our legislators that it was bad legislation due to an inadequate study that was destined to lose money.

We are requesting that our legislators stand strong with us and vote against any bill, budget or legislation that would hurt our citizens by tolling our ferries. Your resolve to see that the ferry tolls are abolished is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Sally T. Belangia, Oriental



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**Resolution 2023-13**  
**A Resolution Opposing the Institution of Tolls**  
**(or Increase in Existing Tolls)**  
**On Ferry Service Operations**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Oriental is surrounded by water and a rural community with limited access to communities on the opposite side of the Neuse River; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Oriental, located in Pamlico County, is a Tourist destination, is financially reliant on visitors who travel to us via the Minnesott-Cherry Branch ferry; and

**WHEREAS**, this loss of revenue from bypassing visitors would threaten the ability of residents and businesses to earn a living, and

**WHEREAS**, loss of revenue to Oriental is also a loss of revenue to the State of North Carolina and would negatively impact the economy, culture, seafood industry, and the overall well-being of the State, and

**WHEREAS**, a significant portion of our residents use the ferry to commute to and from work aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, the largest Marine Air Base and home to the Second Marine Aircraft Wing; and

**WHEREAS**, imposition of fees and/or increasing tolls would create a significant hardship on residents of Oriental and the rest of Pamlico County, whose residents, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, rank 100<sup>th</sup> out of 100 NC Counties in weekly wage earnings, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 136-82 of the fifth edition of House Bill 259 proposes imposition of fees on all ferry routes; and

**WHEREAS**, the continuance of a toll-free ferry service is guaranteed to residents in North Carolina by N.C.G.S. § 136-89.197.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Oriental Mayor and Board strongly opposes the imposition of tolls on ferry service between Minnesott Beach and Cherry Branch, and join other coastal communities to also oppose increases on the tolls currently existing on other ferry services.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2023.

ATTEST:

  
Diane H. Miller, Clerk



  
Sally T. Belangia, Mayor