

Patricia Gardner
202 Dataw Drive
Saint Helena Island, S.C.
29920
December 29, 2014

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: 122 N Harbor Drive, Harbor Island, S.C. 29920

Dear Governor Haley:

We are residents of Beaufort County South Carolina and we need your help. Our home on Harbor Island is in eminent danger of succumbing to the tides. Last Spring's back to back Nor'Easters took away 30 feet of our beachfront and put are house in grave danger.

The only viable remedy is to use a rock revetment, Rip-Wrap, as our neighbors on the surrounding islands of Fripp, Coffin Point, Harbor Island (on the creek side), Distant Island and others have done.

Rip-Wrap has been used very successfully up and down the East Coast where it is the preferred method of protection from Maine to Florida. The substantial sand built up on those properties where it is in use on Fripp is testament to it's success.

Unfortunately, we are told that the use of Rip-Wrap is not permitted by law on Harbor Island. The same law would prevent it's use on Fripp and other Islands as well but exceptions were found to enable them to protect their beaches.

DHTEC and OCRM have been helpful and responsive in granting permits for emergency measures such as sand scraping and one ton sandbags as an interim solution. However, these are just band aids that wash away and are damaged by the next storm.

Our home was condemned last April by the county fire marshall after the back to back Noreasters. Time and money restored the house itself but the one ton sand bags are being jostled by the ocean waves with each storm and a permanent solution is needed.

The rock revetment, or bulkhead, used successfully by our neighbors and up and down the coast is the only solution.

We urgently need your attention and a cooperative effort to either change the law or grant an exception to enable us to protect our house and property on Harbor Island.

Please see the attached photo's reflecting the crisis situation on Harbor Island and the need for an immediate solution. I have included photo's from just 9 years ago when the house was purchased as well.

Time is of the essence.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration in this matter.

We can be reached at 843-838-0823 or 202-957-3101. Our email address is triciag@earthlink.net

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia & Lew Gardner", written in a cursive style.

Patricia & Lew Gardner



December, 2014



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