

Democracy North Carolina

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VACATION ISLAND DONORS GIVE \$2 MILLION, PUSH FOR JETTIES Bill Sponsor Receives \$22,500 in 2010

As the legislature debates a controversial bill to allow construction of “terminal groins” along North Carolina’s beaches, a new study reveals that the bill’s chief sponsor and other state lawmakers have received \$2 million in campaign donations from a group of groin advocates who own vacation homes on Figure 8 Island near Wilmington.

The group includes many of the richest, most powerful political donors in North Carolina. They have hired prominent Republican and Democratic lobbyists and created a political action committee (PAC) called the Island Preservation Society, which has donated more than \$100,000 to lawmakers, according to the analysis by the nonpartisan group Democracy North Carolina.

Lobbyists for the Figure 8 Beach Homeowners Association include former Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker and Joseph H. Lanier, former Sen. Jesse Helms’ legislative director. Donors to the Island Preservation Society PAC include restaurant owners Nick Boddie and Louis Sewell, investors William Armfield IV and Thomas Kenan III, publisher Frank Daniels Jr., developers Julian Rawl and Stephen Cornwell, contractors Earl Johnson Jr., John Bratton Jr. and Frank Dowd IV, auto dealers Fred Anderson and Linda Leith, beer wholesalers Lewis Nunnelee and Rodney Long, entrepreneurs Nat Harris and Charles Winston, and about 100 other civic and business leaders.

In addition to the PAC, the group of donors and their immediate families have given more than \$1.8 million to state politicians since they began their pro-jetties campaign in late 2003 with a fundraising drive for then state Senate leader Marc Basnight. The Senate under Basnight repeatedly adopted bills to undo the state’s longstanding ban against groins, but the House and Speaker Joe Hackney blocked their passage. Basnight led all recipients with \$14,000 from the Preservation Society PAC and \$305,989 directly from its backers from Nov. 2003 to Dec. 2010.

Not all the homeowners on Figure 8 Island support the groins, and nearly all coastal geologists say they will hasten erosion for down-beach property. Nevertheless, the island’s groin advocates have stepped up their donations in the past two years, especially to Republicans.

State Sen. Harry Brown (R-Jacksonville), the main sponsor of Senate Bill 110 to allow groins near inlets, received \$22,500 in the 2010 election cycle from donors related to Figure 8 Island and the Preservation Society PAC, according to Democracy North Carolina. He received only \$2,000 in the previous 5 years and has been a consistent supporter of groins during that time.

Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger (R-Eden) received \$10,450 in 2010 from the donors, including \$1,000 from the PAC, his first donations from these donors since the PAC began.

“The large role of private money in public elections puts good lawmakers and donors under added scrutiny,” said Bob Hall of Democracy North Carolina. “The amount of money major donors can give and raise will make politicians pay attention, but legislation should stand on its merits, not depend on campaign donations. Republican leaders who said they opposed pay-to-play politics must now be careful not to practice what they preached against.”

**DONATIONS RECEIVED BY CANDIDATES & PARTIES FROM
FIGURE 8 ISLAND-RELATED DONORS, NOV. 2003-DEC. 2010**

PARTIAL LIST OF RECIPIENTS	Donations From Island Preservation Soc. PAC	Donations From Individuals	TOTAL
MARC BASNIGHT	\$14,000	\$305,989	\$319,989
BEV PERDUE	2,000	257,189	259,189
RICHARD H MOORE		107,706	107,706
MIKE EASLEY	4,000	96,775	100,775
ROY COOPER	1,500	87,250	88,750
PAT MCCRORY	1,000	75,800	76,800
JOE HACKNEY		72,885	72,885
PATRICK BALLANTINE		63,096	63,096
NC DEMOCRATIC PARTY	12,000	49,175	61,175
ROBERT PITTEGER		60,500	60,500
BILL DAUGHTRIDGE		55,450	55,450
FRED SMITH	500	30,600	31,100
AL ROSEMAN	4,000	25,025	29,025
NEAL HUNT		26,099	26,099
HARRY BROWN	1,500	23,000	24,500
JULIA BOSEMAN	6,000	15,450	21,450
JIM BLACK	2,500	17,800	20,300
WALTER DALTON		19,300	19,300
CLARK JENKINS	1,750	16,300	18,050
KAY R HAGAN (STATE SEN.)		16,900	16,900
RICHARD MORGAN	2,000	14,200	16,200
JOE KNOTT		15,950	15,950
JANET COWELL		15,800	15,800
RICHARD VINROOT		15,050	15,050
NC REPUBLICAN PARTY		14,175	14,175
PRICEY HARRISON		12,950	12,950
PHIL BERGER	1,000	9,450	10,450
LINDA GARROU	1,500	8,625	10,125
TONY RAND	1,000	9,000	10,000
GRIER MARTIN		9,875	9,875
JENNIFER WEISS		9,800	9,800
PRYOR GIBSON	2,000	7,550	9,550
PHIL SHEPARD		9,418	9,418
RICHARD STEVENS	500	7,800	8,300
DANNY MCCOMAS	6,250	1,500	7,750
CARTER WORTHY		7,700	7,700
A B SWINDELL	1,500	5,875	7,375
ARTHUR WILLIAMS		6,850	6,850
PETE BRUNSTETTER		6,000	6,000
THOM GOOLSBY	1,000	4,450	5,450
R C SOLES JR	2,500	2,500	5,000
BILL OWENS	2,500	1,000	3,500
BILL CASTER	3,250		3,250
RICK CATLIN	2,000	350	2,350
DAVID ROUZER	1,750	600	2,350
WILLIAM WAINWRIGHT	2,000	250	2,250
TOM APODACA	1,750	250	2,000
JEAN PRESTON	1,750		1,750
MARTIN NESBITT	1,000	750	1,750
FLETCHER HARTSELL	500	750	1,250
BILL RABON	500	500	1,000
THOM TILLIS	500		500
OTHER CANDIDATES, LOCAL PARTIES	17,750	224,342	242,092
TOTALS	\$105,250	\$1,845,599	\$1,950,849

**DONATIONS TO STATE POLITICS FROM
FIGURE 8 ISLAND-RELATED DONORS, NOV. 2003-DEC. 2010**

DONOR LIST - KEY FAMILY MEMBER	CITY	Donations To Island Preservation Society PAC	Donations To State Candidates & Party Comm.	TOTAL
SEWELL, LOUIS W	JACKSONVILLE	\$500	\$176,084	\$176,584
DANIELS, FRANK A JR	RALEIGH	500	167,249	167,749
KENAN, BETTY & THOMAS III	CHAPEL HILL	3,250	105,520	108,770
WINSTON, CHARLES M	RALEIGH	9,500	70,993	80,493
ARMFIELD, WILLIAM J IV	GREENSBORO	2,000	72,100	74,100
HARRIS, NAT T	WHITSETT	2,000	71,659	73,659
BODDIE, NICK	ROCKY MOUNT	350	72,850	73,200
BRATTON, JOHN R	RALEIGH	5,500	65,650	71,150
ELLISON, JOHN G B JR	GREENSBORO	500	62,081	62,581
RAWL, JULIAN W	GREENVILLE	1,250	56,850	58,100
OVERTON, V PARKER	GRIMESLAND	0	52,998	52,998
DOWD, W FRANK IV	CHARLOTTE	1,000	50,250	51,250
ANNA, DAVID F	CHAPEL HILL	150	41,500	41,650
PAINTER, DEAN E JR	RALEIGH	2,000	36,000	38,000
ANDERSON, FREDRICK H	RALEIGH	1,500	29,250	30,750
HOWARD, RICHARD T	WILMINGTON	1,000	26,971	27,971
HALEY, MICHAEL W	GREENSBORO	1,250	26,000	27,250
HADDOCK, TOMMY L	RALEIGH	850	23,700	24,550
JOHNSON, EARL JR	RALEIGH	2,500	20,000	22,500
BACON, BLANCHE & ZACH	RALEIGH	1,850	20,250	22,100
GORHAM, FRANK	WILMINGTON	3,000	19,000	22,000
HUGHES, ROBERT V	RALEIGH	600	20,350	20,950
CORNWELL, STEPHEN L	CHARLOTTE	500	20,075	20,575
PLEASANTS, C EDWARD	WINSTON-SALEM	1,150	19,400	20,550
RUFFIN, DALTON D	WINSTON-SALEM	1,250	18,700	19,950
COGGINS, STEPHEN	WILMINGTON	900	18,933	19,833
GACH, GREGORY H	CHARLOTTE	100	15,600	15,700
NORWOOD, CHARLES S JR	GOLDSBORO	2,000	11,000	13,000
WICKER, MIKE	SANFORD	250	12,150	12,400
COLLINS, T CLYDE JR	GREENSBORO	500	11,600	12,100
WRIGHT, ROBERT G	RALEIGH	1,800	10,300	12,100
HOWARD, KENNETH B	RALEIGH	1,250	10,750	12,000
NUNNELEE, LEWIS T III	WILMINGTON	500	11,000	11,500
QUBAIN, MUNTHER	RALEIGH	1,000	10,500	11,500
WHITE, THOMAS L JR	GREENSBORO	200	11,295	11,495
SMITH, TIM R	MORRISVILLE	100	11,100	11,200
BOYD, WILLIAM H III	CHARLOTTE	650	10,450	11,100
LONG, RODNEY M	RALEIGH	200	10,850	11,050
RICE, CATHY & G L JR	GREENSBORO	200	10,350	10,550
CAPEL, JESSE S	TROY	500	9,838	10,338
ABBOTT, JAMES A	CHARLOTTE	1,000	9,175	10,175
MORRIS, LEWIS S	GREENSBORO	5,000	4,450	9,450
HOLT, CHARLES B C	FAYETTEVILLE	1,200	8,075	9,275
CONGDON, EARL E	FT LAUDERDALE	800	8,200	9,000
SCHINDLER, ANDREW J	WINSTON-SALEM	1,000	7,550	8,550
WILSON, WILLIAM T III	WINSTON-SALEM	1,500	6,700	8,200
BRANSTROM, WILLIAM III	CHARLOTTE	700	7,350	8,050
BARCLAY, EDWARD (NED)	WILMINGTON	2,000	5,850	7,850
LEITH, LINDA J	RALEIGH	500	7,000	7,500
OTHER DONORS		59,875	260,004	319,879
TOTALS		\$127,675	\$1,845,599	\$1,973,274