



# County of Dare

## Office of the Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 1000 | Manteo, North Carolina 27954 | 252.475.5700

**Robert Woodard**  
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County Manager / Attorney

**Skyler Foley**  
Clerk to the Board

Mr. Mike Causey  
Commissioner of Insurance  
NC Department of Insurance  
ATTN: Kimberly W. Pearce, Paralegal III,  
1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1201  
[2024Homeowners@ncdoi.gov](mailto:2024Homeowners@ncdoi.gov)

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Mr. Causey,

The Dare County Board of Commissioners is writing to express strong opposition to the proposed homeowners insurance rate increases.

The requested increases of 45.1% for territory 110 (beach areas of Dare and Currituck) and 33.9% for territory 130 (inland areas of Dare and Currituck) are excessive. Many homeowners will not be able to afford such increases, including our teachers, hospital employees, first responders, government employees and service workers.

If implemented, these increases will be passed along to those who rent homes in Dare County, leading to increased rents in a market where there is already a severe lack of essential housing for our workforce. In some cases, it will make it impossible for first-time home buyers to purchase a home.

As home values in Dare County increase, premiums will increase exponentially, and many homeowners will be forced to use higher deductibles to avoid exorbitant insurance premiums. These higher deductibles will impact the ability of homeowners to recover from storm damage or other disaster events.

The Dare County Board of Commissioners would also like to express these additional concerns:

- Most homeowners are not aware of the additional 15% surcharge associated with the North Carolina Insurance Underwriters Association (beach plan) policies. We request more clarity in the rate filings and a full disclosure in simple terminology so policyholders understand the true costs of their insurance coverage and how the premium is calculated.
- Admitted carriers in North Carolina are limiting their exposure in coastal areas by discontinuing coverage in our county. We request that the North Carolina Department of Insurance research alternatives to ensure that admitted carriers provide coverage statewide and are not selective in their coverage.
- Public notice procedures for rate increase filings should be expanded to require written notification to all policyholders.

In closing, we point to North Carolina law that states that insurance rates shall not be excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory. We believe that all North Carolinians need attainable coverage at reasonable rates, and that is why we request that the 2024 homeowners' rate increase be denied by the Insurance Commissioner or a hearing be scheduled.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Woodard, Sr., Chairman  
Dare County Board of Commissioners