



# Cape Fear Firebird

*The Light of Save the Cape*

November 18, 2015

*The General Assembly ... finds that it is necessary to consider removal of the Southern Component of the New Inlet Dam in order to reestablish the natural hydrodynamic flow between the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean.*

~ North Carolina Session law 2015-241

*It could be beneficial to allow New Inlet to reopen to provide another access to the ocean.*

~ Senator Bill Rabon (attributed by Senator Michael Lee, *Lumina News*, July 14, 2015)

*If we can remove the rocks, it could restore the ecosystem.*

~ Senator Michael Lee, *Lumina News*, July 14, 2015

*What I smell in this is that we're not being leveled with about what's really going on.*

~ Larry Cahoon, University of North Carolina Wilmington, *Star News*, August 14, 2105

*There could be potential benefits for traffic flow to the Wilmington port as well.*

~ Senator Michael Lee, *Coastal Review Online*, August 28, 2015

*That (bringing back the 'megaport') is not on anybody's playbook.*

*This was not a clandestine operation.*

~ Senator Bill Rabon, *State Port Pilot*, October 28, 2015

*Love your country, but never trust its government.*

~ Robert A. Heinlein

## ***The Rocky Horror Show***

The General Assembly has included in the budget law a plan to remove a section of a rock dam blocking the Cape Fear River from the ocean—despite the objections of the ten communities in the lower Cape Fear and the efforts of Frank Iler in the House to get rid of the language. Why? Some time ago, we looked at a chart of the river and found that section of the rock dam is directly across the river from the 600-acre site the State Ports Authority purchased for a massive container port, and which it now holds for a “new strategic seaport.”

Is the megaport back? Bill Rabon says no, it's not a “clandestine operation.” Well, he is familiar with such things. When he first went to the Senate, he clandestinely removed language from the budget bill prohibiting State spending on the megaport project and denied having done so to us, in front of five Senate colleagues in Senator Berger's conference room. He later admitted to Pat Gannon of the *Raleigh News & Observer* that he had removed the language, but then in 2012 he did it again. Fool us once, shame on Bill. Fool us twice, shame on us.

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