

October 6, 2015

Borough of Deal  
190 Norwood Ave.  
P.O. Box 56  
Deal, NJ 07723

Mayor Ades:

We, the undersigned groups, are concerned with public access to the waterways of the State of NJ. We are deeply concerned with your proposal of resident-only permit parking on six streets east of Ocean Avenue.

Public access to beaches is notoriously difficult along this stretch of coast. This is evidenced by the agreement between the Borough and the Army Corps of Engineers to add a public access point in order to qualify for a federal beach replenishment project. This demonstrates that the existing amount of access is insufficient. Requiring resident-only permit parking near the beach would only compound this problem.

Every taxpayer in the country paid to put sand on the beaches of Deal. Every resident of the State of NJ is the owner of the lands below the mean high tide line. The State keeps those lands in the public's trust. We recognize that the Borough has broad powers to regulate the dry sand area adjacent to those state lands, and the Borough can further regulate certain activities like swimming for public safety. But we maintain that the Borough can not limit the public's access to those areas.

Requiring permit parking so close to the ocean, particularly after the completion of a federally-funded beach replenishment project is suspicious. Parking and access have not changed dramatically in this area for years, so why the change now? We ask you to rescind this ordinance proposal.

If the Borough is experiencing problems like littering or illegal swimming, we suggest the Borough enforce existing laws instead of limiting access to resources owned by the residents of NJ. We are also happy to work with the Borough if additional remedies are needed to these problems.

Sincerely,

**Surfrider Foundation, Jersey Shore Chapter**

**Asbury Park Fishing Club**

**NY/NJ Baykeeper**

**C.R.A.B Citizens' Right to Access Beaches**

**NJ Beach Buggy Association**

**Sierra Club, NJ Chapter**

**Shark River Surf Anglers**

**Stripersonline.com**

**NJ Citizen Action**

**Hackensack River Keeper**

**Shark River Cleanup Coalition**

**NJ Council of Diving Clubs**

**Surfers' Environmental Alliance**

**Jersey Coast Angler's Association**

**Anglers Conservation Network**

**Jersey Coast Shark Anglers**

**Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County**

**NJ Outdoor Alliance**