

Dear Editor,

The wealthy Candler family (Atlanta, Coca Cola) is asking our Camden County Commission to authorize the construction of a "Candler Family Compound" of 10 new residences on its "inholding" property on Cumberland Island. This has been much in the news and has generated great concern by many because of the fear of degradation to fragile, wild Cumberland Island and to the National Park Service mission for the Cumberland Island National Seashore.

However, one aspect which has not been focused upon is the driving of motor vehicles on the beach and over the dunes. I was surprised to learn that beach driving on Cumberland Island is not controlled by the National Park Service but instead by the GA Department of Natural Resources (DNR). And then I was astounded to learn that DNR will give a beach driving permit if: "I own or have an interest in real property on the island in question, or am the spouse, parent, child, grandchild or other lineal descendent (or their spouse) of such individual."

Think about this! For each new residence, there could be not just one but four, five, six, perhaps more, beach driving permits. Then, if other "inholding" property owners decide to request, and are granted, similar accommodation by the County Commission, the beach driving permits could number in the hundreds!

We pray sincerely that the Camden County Commissioners will protect our crown jewel, wonderful Cumberland Island.

Respectfully,

Bill Bruce

St. Marys, GA