

Talking Points

- Congress established the Cumberland Island National Seashore, which encompasses the entire island, to preserve this iconic place in its primitive undeveloped state. (1972)
- Camden County zoned the inholdings on the island as Conservation/Preservation, consistent with the authorizing legislation, to ensure that these areas were protected from any development that would destroy their undeveloped character(effective 1/1/2009)
- Tourism is the primary economic engine for St. Marys and other parts of Camden County (\$90,320,000in 2015), and Cumberland Island is at the center of our tourism efforts considering the 60,000 visitors to the island each year.
- The hundreds of commenters, thousands of petition signers, and numerous newspaper articles reveal that people visit and return to Cumberland Island because of its historic and ecological character.
- The Lumar tract is located in the heart of Cumberland Island immediately adjacent to the Sea Camp campground--the most-visited area of the island; development of the tract could dramatically impact visitors' Cumberland Island experience.
- Lumar has not, and cannot, demonstrate that it meets the five criteria required for a hardship variance. In granting the variance, the Planning Commission improperly departed from County zoning requirements that have been in place for years.
- If the Board of Commissioners were to uphold this decision, it would fly in the face of the work done to market Camden County as progressive, environmentally aware, and financially strong.