

Cumberland Island talking points

General:

- The decision to grant the variance is disappointing, as Cumberland Island should not be treated like any ordinary property.
- If this hardship variance was to stand, it could set a bad precedent in encouraging future development on this iconic island.
- It is vital that we do all we can to preserve the natural and historic elements of this rare and idyllic place for current and future generations.
- Ultimately we want to see a solution to this issue that preserves the natural and historic character of Cumberland Island yet at the same time respects the property rights of those who own private property on the island.
- We would welcome the opportunity to work with all parties at the table to seek a long-term solution, with the goal of protecting the natural beauty and historic character for which the Cumberland Island National Seashore is known and beloved.

Variance:

- On December 7, the Planning Commission for Camden County, Georgia, granted a hardship variance that allows the owners of an 87-acre tract on Cumberland Island to subdivide that property into ten lots.
- The hardship variance is required in order to subdivide the property under the Camden County development code because it does not border a paved road.
- The property owners are seeking to subdivide the 87-acre tract into ten lots for private home construction.
- Lumar's application fails to meet the standards necessary for granting a hardship variance.
- Lumar's property is an inholding within the legislated boundaries of the Cumberland Island National Seashore and is zoned under the Conservation Preservation (CP) classification.
- According to the Camden County Development Code, the purpose of the CP district is "to discourage encroachment of uses capable of destroying the undeveloped character of the CP district."

Ecological value:

- Cumberland Island is Georgia's largest and southernmost barrier island, with amazing views of the Atlantic Ocean and Cumberland Sound.