

**From:** [Bill Michels](#)  
**To:** [Statements](#)  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by Bill Michels  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2022 1:24:06 PM

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## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

Bill Michels

### Email

[bill.michels@gmail.com](mailto:bill.michels@gmail.com)

### Docket

A-41, Sub 22.

### Message

As a long term resident of Bald head Island I am very concerned about BHI Ltd's disregard of the right of first refusal granted to the the Village of BHI relative to any future sale of the BHI Transportation System and instead trying to sell the system to a private equity company whose primary objectives are financial returns rather than the interests of all BHI stakeholders. First of all the entire community including those who reside, visit or work on the island are totally dependent on the reliable and affordable operation of the ferry, barge, tram & parking. Furthermore SharpVue is a financial buyer with no long term experience or interest in the BHI community and no relevant experience maintaining & operating a ferry system Thus I would urge the commission to support the Village's purchase of the ferry system. Among the many relevant concerns that need to be addressed are: . What assurances do we have that SharpVue will hold the assets long term? · What, specifically are the plans to improve service levels which have significantly deteriorated over the past few years? · Will SharpVue commit to continue to own the parking, barge and ferry rather than selling these operations off in pieces? · When SharpVue does sell what assurances do users have about a future owner fulfillment of promises made by SharpVue? · Does SharpVue have capital available to replace the aging fleet of boats? · What assurances do we have that SharpVue will continue to make the barge service available on reasonable terms and conditions? · What are SharpVue's plans for expanding parking as the island grows? What new parking features will SharpVue make available? Will SharpVue commit to maintaining rate class options for parking? · What are SharpVue's plans for dredging? Is capital committed to that critical need in the business plans? · If SharpVue makes a commitment in this proceeding to keep rates at a certain level for a period of time, what assurances do we have that they won't raise parking or barge rates to make up the difference? Since the same users ride the ferry and park, how would their promises in the transfer proceeding be enforced? Overall the residents of Bald head Island do not believe SharpVue will be as responsible or long term a protector of the transportation & parking assets that are so critical to the island's future well being as the Village will be due to our much greater self interest & total reliance on these assets. Thank you for considering these

points very carefully

**From:** [Lynn & Joe Barnard](#)  
**To:** [Statements](#)  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by Lynn & Joe Barnard  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2022 12:22:36 PM

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## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

Lynn & Joe Barnard

### Email

lrbarnard@bellsouth.net

### Docket

Docket No. A-41, Sub 22.

### Message

We have owned property since 1982 and been homeowners since 1990. We have seen many changes. But nothing has been more important for the survival of the island than the issues with the ferry, parking and barge. We and everyone else who lives, works and/or visits Bald Head is totally dependent on these services. If they become too expensive the outcome could lead to the island's demise. What assurances do we have that SharpVue will continue to make the barge, ferry and parking services available on reasonable terms and conditions? Does SharpVue have capital available to replace the aging fleet of boats? What, specifically are the plans to improve service levels which have significantly deteriorated over the past few years? What are SharpVue's plans for dredging? Is capital committed to that critical need in the business plans? If SharpVue makes a commitment in this proceeding to keep rates at a certain level for a period of time, what assurances do we have that they won't raise parking or barge rates to make up the difference? Since the same users ride the ferry and park, how would their promises in the transfer proceeding be enforced? Thanks for listening to us homeowners and hopefully making decisions that will keep Bald Head a thriving island home. Sincerely, Lynn & Joe Barnard 1 Dogwood Ridge Road, Bald Head Island, NC 28461 email: lrbarnard@bellsouth.net

**From:** [charles K scott md](#)  
**To:** [Statements](#)  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by charles K scott md  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2022 12:16:40 PM

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## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

charles K scott md

### Email

ckscottmd@gmail.com

### Docket

A-41 Sub 22

### Message

I have been a property owner on Bald Head Island since the early 1980's. In resolving the issue of the ferry transportation system for the Island I favor the following 1) Ownership by The Village of Bald Head -- they would have the best interests of the property owners and and the best understanding of the needs of the Island at heart 2)The parking facilities are an integral part of the system and should not be a separate entity.

**From:** [Franklin A. Klaine](#)  
**To:** [Statements](#)  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by Franklin A. Klaine, Jr. and Karen W. Klaine  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2022 9:57:57 AM

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## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

Franklin A. Klaine, Jr. and Karen W. Klaine

### Email

faklaine@gmail.com

### Docket

A-41 Sub 22

### Message

My wife and I have been home owners on Bald Head Island since 1997. We have a vested interest in Bald Head Island. What is good for Bald Head Island is good for us. What will not be good for us is ownership of the ferry, tram, parking and barge operation by an entity or entities that are controlled in a monopolistic arrangement where there are no alternatives for the users where : 1. Owners first priority is a return on its investment, not the users of the system. 2. Ability to sell off components of the system and further increase potential downside to the users. 3. Users of system have no say in any aspect of operation and ultimate costs to users of system. 4. The transfer of the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the ferry and tram is premature as it would essentially recognize and approve of the sale of the ferry, tram, parking and barge to Sharpvue. We request that the proposed transfer be denied or alternatively continued pending resolution of all matters involving the transfer of ownership of the ferry, tram, parking and barge operations.

**From:** [Lou Vaickus](#)  
**To:** [Statements](#)  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by Lou Vaickus  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2022 8:38:10 AM

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## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

Lou Vaickus

### Email

[lou.vaickus@gmail.com](mailto:lou.vaickus@gmail.com)

### Docket

Docket No. A-41, Sub 22.

### Message

Dear Members of the Utilities Commission, I am a homeowner on BHI. The concerns that BHI has listed and has questions for are real and immediate. The ferry service is vital, a monopoly, and in need of expert oversight and upgrades. I am concerned that, left to themselves, SharpVue will have no incentives to do any of the above without independent supervision by NC. The vacationers, renters, owners, and businesses have a right to affordable, reliable, and current ferry systems and hope that after you review the situation, that you will agree. In addition, and of equal importance, my wife and I are starting a not-for-profit K-8 school on BHI (BHI Academy) and the teachers, assistants, admins, lecturers, and students and parents will be entirely dependent on this ferry system. In particular, we are offering a top notch education to the underprivileged from Brunswick County by offsetting some or all of their tuition and fees. Classes are expected to be approx 50% underprivileged and special needs like dyslexia and ADHD. As Chairman of the Board of BHI Academy Foundation, I implore you to ensure that the ferry system has expert oversight so that we maintain this vital link in our transportation system. Best regards, Lou Vaickus 23 Cape Fear Trail BHI

**From:** [Pamela Douglas](#)  
**To:** [Statements](#)  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by Pamela Douglas  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2022 8:32:24 AM

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## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

Pamela Douglas

### Email

pamela.douglas@duke.edu

### Docket

A-41, Sub 22

### Message

I am home owner on Bald Head Island, and I am writing regarding the proposed transfer of ferry, parking and barge operations from Bald Head Ltd to Sharp Vue capital. As I am sure you are aware, the ferry, barge and parking are absolutely essential to living on BHI. There is not alternative way to get to the island. Further, all three component's are essential. They are not only physically kinked but also operational and functionally connected. A ferry without parking is useless, similarly access to the island for people is useless without the ability to also move food, materials and trucks on and off the island. Accordingly, I feel strongly that: -the components of ferry/barge/parking system should not be separated. -any buyer should be able to operate a public utility (does SharpVue have any experience with this?) and have the business plan and assets to execute it? -any buyer needs to be committed to high quality service including remediating known issues and investing for the future. Finally, there needs to be assurances that rates will be affordable for residents and the many workers who require ferry parking and transport for employment/livelihood. Collectively, BHI owners, renters, employers and workers pay many millions in taxes, revenue that would surely be adversely affected if we did not have a convenient, affordable and well functioned ferry/parking /barge system. Pamela S Douglas, MD 4 Coquina Trail BHI

**From:** [robert b drumheller](#)  
**To:** [Statements](#)  
**Subject:** Statement of Position Submitted by robert b drumheller  
**Date:** Monday, October 31, 2022 8:28:39 AM

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## Statement of Position Submitted

### Name

robert b drumheller

### Email

rbdrumheller@gmail.com

### Docket

A-41 sub 22

### Message

APPROVE SHARPVUE FOR THE BHI FERRY SYSTEM Bald Head Island Limited's efforts to sell the BHI ferry system has been a long and complicated process. The dispute between Limited and the BHI Village government is just short of two years and island property owner tax funds financing the Village's legal costs are quickly approaching one million dollars. Both island and mainland users are weary of the fighting. While they want some basic protections about parking availability and future price levels, they want a viable and clear path forward. SharpVue's proposed acquisition of the transportation system provides the needed solution. SharpVue's investor group are almost all North Carolina located and have a long term investment horizon. They have all the financing required for the acquisition and have investor commitments for additional funds for future improvements if needed. They will take on existing management and staff providing a smooth transition and continuity of operations. Most importantly they have agreed in concept with the North Carolina Utilities Commission to guarantee adequate parking levels at Deep Port, a one year freeze on ticket price increases, linking future price increases to inflation rates for several years, and requiring any potential future owner to accept these conditions. This oversight by the NCUC once formalized will address the legitimate basic concerns users are seeking. Lastly SharpVue will close on the deal as soon as permitted. SharpVue offers a reasonable solution, and the time is now for the NCUC and the users to support them.