



Mr. Jim Broadwell
Project Manager
Jekyll Island Authority

Common Cause Georgia has engaged in the public debate on issues related to the ongoing revitalization of Jekyll Island over the past three years. We have taken issue with some of the Authority's previously considered public/private partnerships that would have reduced public access to Jekyll's beaches and created large numbers of new housing units aimed at high end owners or visitors to the Island. We have taken note that those plans have been set aside for the time being, giving rise for the opportunity to structure the revised master plan to clearly establish a direction in which the Island can continue to offer the kind of vacation destination prescribed in its charter:

"The Georgia General Assembly finds that Jekyll Island is home to some of the state's most treasured natural and cultural resources and it is the expressed intent of this body to ensure the preservation of these resources for the enjoyment of all Georgians now and for future generations to come."

Our organization focuses on insuring open, accountable and ethical government in the state. In that context, we strongly urge that the revised master plan make very clear that future development of Jekyll be consistent with the vision set forth in the General Assembly. We have reviewed the recommendation put forth by *Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island* regarding the mix of planned hotel space and endorse that position as stated below.

Jekyll Island's accommodations should provide a range of price points, but if the state park's affordability mandate is to be honored, the majority of the island's lodgings should be affordable for the majority of people. The upscale Jekyll Island Club Hotel and the soon to be built four-star Jekyll convention hotel will account for nearly one-third of the island's hotel rooms, more than enough to accommodate high end Jekyll visitors. Lodgings priced with average income citizens in mind should, therefore, be the norm for future hotel redevelopment projects, four of which are likely to be undertaken during the next few years.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide input to your work in updating Jekyll's master plan. I wish you success in arriving at a plan that will keep the island's special character and natural beauty available to generations of visitors for years to come.

Best regards,

Bill Bozarth
Executive Director
Common Cause Georgia
404 524-4598
www.commoncause.org/ga