



# A-NPDC

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

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January 10, 2025

CFPF Review Committee

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to provide support for Northampton County's proposed project, *Advancing Flood Resiliency of the Working Waterfront in Oyster, VA*. This project represents the next phase of a sustained effort by this local community, local partners, and the Commonwealth of Virginia to address coastal resilience in a highly vulnerable, rural landscape by taking the next step towards implementation of the Oyster Adaptation and Resilience Plan. The county and village have been focused on mitigating flooding since Hurricane Isabel in 2003 and this is part of that long term commitment to maintaining the viability of the village and the waterfront dependent infrastructure housed in this community. The Plan outlines projects, costs and priorities that are necessary to begin to address threats due to complicating factor of sea-level rise on flooding.

Oyster Village sits along the seaside of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, which is both highly vulnerable to rising seas and more frequent and intense storms and is one of the most studied coastal areas in the world. Long-term data, future scenario predictions and models coupled with partnerships among research institutions, local communities and TNC helped created both the Climate Adaptation Working Group (CAWG) and the Virginia Eastern Shore Coastal Resilience Tool. Working with the diverse community of Oyster, which includes year-round residents, farmers, working watermen, recreational boaters, and the University of Virginia's Coastal Research Center, the plan provides a path forward to seek funding and support for projects that need to be implemented to create a more resilience and adaptable seaside community. This project represents the next step- creating a final engineered design that is ready for permitting for implementation.

I serve on the Resilience Steering Committee (RSC) for this project, and I have enjoyed serving in this capacity and working with Northampton County, The Nature Conservancy and Dewberry on the Oyster Plan. The County's proposal represents the next steps for the RSC as we have worked on behalf of the community to prioritize projects- that now need funding to move forward. Thank you for your consideration in funding this much needed project for Oyster, Virginia.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine K. N. Meil".

Elaine K. N. Meil, Executive Director

cc: Sandy Taylor, Director of Administration