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To NFWF Coastal Resilience Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to provide strong support for The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) proposed project, *Design and Permitting for the Implementation of Nature Based Solutions for the Community Adaptation and Resilience Plan for Oyster, VA*. This project represents a real effort by a local community and the Commonwealth of Virginia to address coastal resilience in a highly vulnerable, rural landscape by providing next steps towards implementation of the Oyster Plan. The Plan outline projects, costs and priorities that are necessary to begin to address threats due to sea-level rise and 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 resilient 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 am a year-round resident of Oyster. I have enjoyed serving in this capacity and working with both TNC and Dewberry on the Oyster Plan. TNC'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!



Sarah Morgan

Oyster Resident and Member of the Oyster Resilience Steering Committee