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Congress of the United States  
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April 14, 2023

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The Honorable Deanne Criswell  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
500 C Street, SW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20472

RE: Lancaster County, VA BRIC Grant Application

Director Administrator Criswell:

I am writing to express my support for the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant application submitted by Lancaster County, Virginia. The "Westland Beach - Windmill Point Shoreline Stabilization Project" grant application submitted by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and Lancaster County aims to stop shoreline erosion and restore the Westland Beach-Windmill Point area, which has lost 110 feet of beach shoreline in the past decade.

This public/private partnership between Lancaster County and the Windmill Point Marina owner is an excellent example of a coastal resilience project that utilizes nature-based solutions, including beach nourishment and beach and dune vegetation planting, to stabilize 1,324 feet of eroding shoreline along the Rappahannock River. The project has a benefit/cost ratio of 3.4:1, meaning that every dollar invested in the project would return \$3.40 in benefits.

The "Westland Beach-Windmill Point Shoreline Stabilization" project will include the construction of five armor stone breakwaters and two armor spurs and installing 18,000 cubic yards of beach nourishment with 42,000 square feet of beach and dune vegetation plantings. The project will also protect private infrastructures, including the Windmill Point Marina, the shoreline (including public beach access and private beach), and VDOT infrastructure (Windmill Point Road) from storm damage, continued erosion, and the subsequent migration of mean high water. Habitat creation will occur both on land and in the water.

This project is estimated to cost \$2.3 million, and the County of Lancaster is seeking \$1.76 million of federal share funding from FEMA. The project has an exceptional benefit/cost ratio and will significantly benefit the local community and countless visitors by expanding public access from 50 feet to over 410 feet while protecting and restoring the County's only public beach.

Thank you for your consideration of the "Lancaster County - Westland Beach - Windmill Point Shoreline Stabilization Project" grant application. The project aligns with FEMA's mission to promote resilience and reduce the loss of life and property caused by disasters. This project is essential to building a more resilient and sustainable future for the Lancaster County community.

With kind regards, I remain

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress