



TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY

3820 – 40th Avenue
Cottage City, Maryland 20722
(301) 779-2161 • Fax (301) 779-3525

March 23, 2022

Mr. Jake Reilly
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 Fifteenth St., N.W., Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Reilly,

I'm writing on behalf of the Town of Cottage City in support of the Environmental Finance Center's (EFC) *Walkable Watersheds: Developing an Equitable Green Infrastructure Plan for the Port Towns of Prince George's County, MD* proposal. This project is important to the Town as we hope to gain an improved environment and an improved quality of life for our community.

Cottage City is a small, quiet community located on the border of Washington, DC. Cottage City that was developed beginning in 1870, under the name of "The Highlands". The area was incorporated in 1924 as The Town of Cottage City. With the coming of European settlers, the area became noted for its deep-water, Anacostia River Port. A few houses were developed beginning in 1904 with broad streets laid out in a grid and trees planted along the streets. In 1999, Cottage City was lauded by the Joint Center for Sustainable Communities for our collaboration with Prince George's County for the Port Towns Revitalization Initiative. Cottage City is a small ethnically mixed community with old cottage-style homes that sit on tree-lined streets. The community is an active and enthusiastic partner with Prince George's County in Port Towns Redevelopment Plan, an effort to revitalize the neighborhood while preserving our heritage.

Due to global warming, our Town has endured large storms that have caused significant flooding within the community. The Town is aggressively working on projects to reduce the stormwater management issues. This project will provide us with another tool to address these issues and will allow us to partner with other Port Towns that are having similar issues. We currently have several initiatives and programs that address stormwater management such as the following: Tree Canopy Committee, Green Team, Community Garden Club, Clean-Up initiatives, as well as being a member of the Anacostia Watershed Society. This project will aid in educating community residents on ways to reuse stormwater by installing rain barrels. It will also provide funding to translate written materials from English to Spanish to help educate our Hispanic residents.

We currently have a pet waste management program that has encouraged residents to get out and walk around the community with their pets and increased the overall health of our residents. We share a



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bike/walk trail with the nearby Port Town communities. To reduce our carbon imprint the Town has committed to reduce our gas powered fleet, to electric vehicles and hybrids.

As a key partner in this project, the Town of Cottage City will be committed to the following:

- Use of site transportation
- Use of office space
- Use of Town Hall for meetings and events
- Use of Town staff
- Use of areas to store project equipment and supplies
- Use of Town bobcat and other equipment to complete tasks

These in-kind donations are valued at \$50,000.00.

In closing, the Town of Cottage City encourages the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund this proposal. Projects like this one play a critical role in helping communities such as ours meet their stormwater management and environmental goals.

Sincerely,

Wanda Wheatley
Chair Commissioner