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March 16, 2022

Mr. H. Philip Paradice, Jr.
Regional Director
Economic Development Administration
401 West Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1820
Atlanta, GA 30308-3510

2022-107

Dear Mr. Paradice:

The City Diamondhead, Mississippi, offers its support and commitment to The University of Southern Mississippi's proposal to EDA titled *Gulf Blue Initiative: Driving Sustainability through Regional Economic Growth*. The blue economy is an important industry sector in South Mississippi and we look forward to finding ways for our community to connect to it.

Local leaders will participate in the proposed planning efforts and the development of strategies to align our goals and objectives as a community to those of the blue economy. We are committed to finding opportunities to create more high-quality, innovative jobs in our community. The Gulf Blue Initiative is an important element in diversifying the local economy and that of the region.

Furthermore, the technical assistance afforded to our community through the GBI project will allow us to connect traditionally underserved populations to unprecedented opportunities for entrepreneurship, innovation and small business growth.

If you have any questions about our support or involvement, please let us know. We appreciate you giving the project strong consideration for Phase II, Build Back Better funding.

Sincerely,

Michael Reso
City Manager