



**LEVY COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS    COMMISSIONERS**  
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October 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Levy County fully supports Resource Institute's application for the EPA Community Change Grant to restore and enhance the oyster harvest beds in Cedar Key while providing job training in restoration for local harvesters. This initiative will not only bolster the oyster population but also generate substantial economic benefits for Cedar Key and surrounding communities. The project aligns with our commitment to sustainable practices that improve the livelihoods of our residents and contribute to the long-term prosperity of the region.

Levy County's role in this project is to support Resource Institute's efforts to secure the grant and to support community outreach and engagement activities. While we will be invited to attend and participate in regular project meetings, we are not responsible for the administration of this grant. These meetings will be held at least monthly to discuss project implementation, share updates, and address any challenges that arise, ensuring that community feedback is incorporated into project activities.

In addition to revitalizing the local ecosystem, this project will offer critical job training and employment opportunities for our oystermen during the non-harvest season. By empowering these workers with skills that contribute to the resilience of our economy, we are ensuring they have stable, year-round employment options.

Given the recent devastation caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the importance of this project cannot be overstated. Levy County has faced immense challenges, and this effort will play a pivotal role in helping our communities recover and rebuild stronger.

We are proud to support this initiative and look forward to seeing its positive impacts on our environment, economy, and residents.

Sincerely,

Desiree Mills  
Levy County Board of County Commissioners Chair