

September 7, 2010



Dr. Kevin Sellner
Executive Director
Chesapeake Research Consortium
645 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, MD 21037

Dear Kevin:

I am providing this letter in support of the proposal you and your team are submitting to the NOAA Climate Services Special Competition for the Coastal Zone entitled, "***Improved Resiliency of Chesapeake Bay Communities to Storm Surge and Inundation under Climate-Induced Sea Level Rise.***" The description of the plans for the project are highly relevant to our region's and our organization's future needs. Wetlands Watch has been working with local governments in the tidal reaches of Virginia on sea level rise adaptation planning for over four years and the major obstacle to this work has been accurate and reliable mapping and modeling of future zones of storm surge inundation.

Southeastern Virginia is one of the regions at highest risk from sea level rise and storm surges. Wetlands Watch in 2007 concluded that Hampton Roads was the largest population center at greatest risk from sea level rise outside of New Orleans – we need to start today with adaptation planning. The models you plan to develop will be extremely useful to our adaptation work and the interactions and dialog you offer with the modeling team to meet our needs for the future are extremely appealing.

I look forward to hearing your proposed work has been supported. Once this occurs, please feel free to contact me to help identify local planners, emergency managers, and other relevant parties in the commercial, military, health, and environmental fields so that we might assemble the most relevant individuals and organizations to meet with you to insure the tools you develop can be applied effectively.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William A. Stiles, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William A. Stiles, Jr.
Executive Director