



February 10, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

SUBJECT: Town of Port Deposit RAISE Grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG) is pleased to support the Town of Port Deposit's application for a FY23 RAISE Grant to advance design of infrastructure resilience strategies such as upland stormwater management, roadway drainage improvements, retrofitting outfalls with backflow prevention, installation of closure gates along the Norfolk Southern railroad embankment, pumping operations, and other strategies recommended by the Army Corps of Engineers, Cecil County Department of Public Works, and the Town's consultants.

The LSHG was created to serve as a conservation strategy to protect environmentally sensitive areas along Upper Bay by developing 38 miles of recreational trails to connect the 3 waterfront communities of Port Deposit, Perryville, and Havre de Grace, creating not only physical linkages for enhanced visitation and economic growth but also providing a mechanism to connect the area's cultural and natural offerings.

The Town of Port Deposit has tremendous environmental, cultural and historical assets which are at risk due to outdated or insufficient stormwater and flood controls. Sitting at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay and its confluence with the Susquehanna River, the Town of Port is both a "last line of defense" against sediment and pollutants entering the Bay from nearby farms, residential and commercial developments; and, on the "front line" of asset protection against tidal surge from coastal storms and releases from the Conowingo Dam. Upgrading stormwater controls is critical to the health of the Chesapeake Bay, maintaining safe drinking water for residents of the Town, and protecting the Town's historic and cultural resources.

The proposed RAISE grant is a critical component in the Town's resiliency efforts. Our organization is committed to working with the Town of Port Deposit to continue progress on stormwater and flood controls so that the Town may grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brigitte C. Carty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a distinct 'C' for the last name.

Brigitte C. Carty
Executive Director