



Office of Partnerships &  
Outreach  
401 Washington Avenue  
Towson, MD 21204

February 17, 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 Office of Partnerships & Outreach at Towson University (TU) 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The Town of Port Deposit has tremendous environmental, cultural, and historical assets which are at risk due to outdated or insufficient stormwater and flood controls.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.

Although TU is not financially attached to this work, since 2008, our Department of Biological Sciences has been partnered with the Town of Port Deposit to study and strengthen the population of endangered Northern Map Turtles along the Susquehanna River. Through this partnership, we have established and maintained shoreline conservation space and restored the Historic Tome Gas House, which now serves as a community education center, open to the public, and research facility for faculty and students. We are committed to continue this work with the Town of Port Deposit and support efforts to continue progress on stormwater and flood controls so that the Town may grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Crostic', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kathleen Crostic  
Assistant Director, Partnerships & Engagement

