

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3302

April 26, 2024

Peter Tsirigotis
Director
Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards
Environmental Protection Agency
109 T.W. Alexander Drive
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Director Tsirigotis:

We write regarding the coalition proposal led by the State of North Carolina for funding through the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. This proposal will provide North Carolina—along with coalition members South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland—the ability to implement nature-based carbon sequestration projects across multiple sectors of the economy.

As members of North Carolina's congressional delegation, we see how a changing climate is affecting our state. To have a significant impact at a regional scale, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Virginia have formed a unique, nonpartisan coalition to focus on greenhouse gas reduction projects in the natural and working lands sectors. This innovative coalition has also enlisted a partnership with The Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit conservation organization already operating across the region that has leading expertise in carrying out this type of work.

By focusing on emissions reductions through natural climate solutions, the coalition will not only achieve EPA's primary goal of reducing pollution but will also bring a myriad of community and environmental co-benefits to the region. The proposed wetland, forest, and coastal restoration carbon projects will improve water quality, reduce flood risk, improve wildlife habitat, and provide recreational opportunities for our constituents.

North Carolina and the diverse group of partners it has assembled from governments and non-profits have a proven track record for both successful ecosystem restoration projects and regional collaboration. This coalition is well-positioned to deliver results, using the best available science to inform projects across the four-state region.

For these reasons, we urge your full and fair consideration of the coalition proposal for funding through the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program within all relevant rules and regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices for additional information about the project.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wiley Nickel". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Jackson". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Jeff Jackson
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie P. Foushee". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress