



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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May 5, 2015

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Multistate Activities Committee

Re: Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Assessing the Impacts of Climate Variability and Climate Change

Dear Committee Members,

I am very pleased to offer this letter of support for the University of Rhode Island (URI) project team seeking USDA funding support for their proposal titled "Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems: Assessing the Impacts of Climate Variability and Climate Change." The research work and data collected as part of this project proposal will provide important information that will be critical to the decision making and management needs of regulatory agencies in the state of Rhode Island. The Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) establishes policies and standards for the siting and construction of onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) within the coastal zone. Climate change, especially the impacts from sea level rise, is already a factor in septic system performance and will continue to have long-term consequences on public health and safety, as well as impacts to our coastal resources.

The CRMC relies upon the best available scientific knowledge and research to assist our agency in the formulation of sound public policy and standards within our state coastal program to protect the environment and public health. We anticipate that the URI research team will be working closely with our agency and other stakeholders as data and information are developed over the course of the project. The research will help us gain a better understanding of climate change impacts to OWTS and improve our management of these systems into the future.

I strongly endorse the URI proposal and hope that you will consider funding this important research work. Should you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at 401-783-3370 or email me at: jboyd@crmc.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

James Boyd
CRMC Coastal Policy Analyst