PRAMILA JAYAPAL 7th District, Washington

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January 30, 2024

NOAA's Office for Coastal Management 2234 South Hobson Ave Charleston, SC 29045-2413 Attn: Adam Stein

Dear Mr. Stein,

I am writing to express my support for the Washington State Department of Ecology's application for the NOAA Coastal Resilience Regional Challenge. The Washington State Department of Ecology is requesting funding for the *Washington State Coastal Climate Partnership Initiative*.

The Coastal Climate Partnership Initiative is comprised of state agencies, regional Tribes, local governments, academic partners and nonprofit entities. The partners represent a diverse array of stakeholders working to meaningfully advance the climate hazard resilience and adaptive capacity of Washington's marine shorelines and coastal communities.

With funding from the NOAA Coastal Resilience Regional Challenge, the partnership will focus on three key initiatives. First, it completes critical multi-benefit projects across diverse coastal landscapes and underserved areas while supporting a long-term pipeline of prioritized projects. Second, the project will promote knowledge exchange, support local capacity and address key data gaps. Finally, it will solidify an existing ad-hoc coalition into a durable inter-organizational partnership to provide capacity and guidance to improve future projects, state policies and partner initiatives.

These projects are prioritized to improve resilience in local communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by climate injustice. By focusing on existing resilience collaboratives in key marine coastal areas across our state, these important shovel ready projects will work to reduce vulnerability from coastal hazards, manage coastal climate adaptation, initiate workforce development and create enduring capacity to redesign the state's coastal landscapes for the future. In Washington State, many of our Tribal, rural and island communities live on the frontlines of climate hazard zones. These communities are in urgent need of federally funded public infrastructure and habitat restoration work.

I urge you to give full and fair consideration to Washington State Department of Ecology's application for funding from NOAA for the *Washington State Coastal Climate Partnership Initiative*. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (206) 674-0040 if you have any questions about my support for this application.

Sincerely,

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PRAMILA JAYAPAL Member of Congress