

UNITED STATES SENATE

October 28, 2014

2014 OCT 28 AM 10:14

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
(b)(6)  
Washington, D.C. 20528-0150

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I write to request your official support for a pilot project underway in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia to coordinate the region's response to sea level rise and recurrent flooding.

As you know, Hampton Roads comprises some 1.6 million people in 14 counties and independent cities and a regional economy based heavily on military assets, including the largest naval installation in the world. It is also a low-lying coastal region where sea level rise, land subsidence, and extreme weather vulnerability converge to create major flooding challenges.

Resiliency touches cross-cutting sectors such as commercial and residential buildings, transportation infrastructure, water infrastructure, air and water quality, and federal facilities. Governance of these sectors is distributed among federal agencies, Virginia state agencies, the Virginia General Assembly, Hampton Roads regional planning bodies, local governments, and the federal facilities that rely on resilient municipal infrastructure.

The Hampton Roads region has aimed to be vigilant in emergency preparedness, proactive in seeking federal support for resilient infrastructure, and cognizant of the impacts of flooding on federal facilities. This summer, Old Dominion University (ODU), in Norfolk, unveiled a Hampton Roads sea level rise adaptation pilot project to coordinate these efforts via a "whole of government" approach. The pilot is a two-year effort to bring together a team of federal, state, regional, and local agencies – with representatives of key private sector industries – to develop a menu of sea level rise adaptation policies. These policies will aim to remove barriers to interagency cooperation, enhance regional planning, and identify support that federal agencies can provide. While the project centers on the Hampton Roads region, its value is intended to stem in part from its potential for use in other regions.

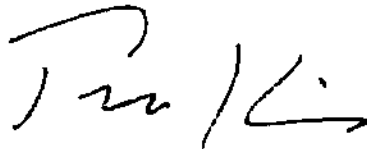
Shortly after the announcement of this project, three bipartisan congressional colleagues and I hosted a public symposium at ODU entitled *Rising to the Challenge: Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding in Hampton Roads*. We were privileged to be joined by panelists from the National Security Council, Department of Defense, Navy, Army Corps of Engineers, and local, state, and regional bodies. We listened to discussions and asked questions about how to prepare for the infrastructure challenges that exist now and that scientific models tell us will intensify in coming years.

I encourage your department to support the ODU pilot project, and I request that you issue formal written correspondence to the applicable divisions and subagencies within your department that authorize them to participate in and cooperate with this pilot project, as appropriate. Old Dominion University will also be reaching out to your staff with requests to discuss this project further in person. For more information, please feel free to contact CAPT (USN, Ret.) (b)(6) Director of Coastal Resilience Research at ODU, (b)(6) (b)(6)

If successful, this project will marshal the excellent work already underway in a coordinated, systematic effort to strengthen the infrastructure and preparedness of a low-lying coastal region and to prepare it for the sea level rise and flooding challenges it faces today and moving forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



CC:

- The Honorable Chuck Hagel, Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense
- The Honorable Ernest Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
- The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- The Honorable Julian Castro, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
- The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
- The Honorable Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
- The Honorable Charles Bolden, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- The Honorable Kathryn Sullivan, Administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- The Honorable John Conger, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment
- The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
- The Honorable Dennis McGinn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations & Environment)
- Ms. Alice Hill, Senior Advisor for Preparedness and Resilience, National Security Council
- Mr. Mike Boots, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality
- COL Paul Olsen, Norfolk District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- The Honorable Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia
- The Honorable Paul Fraim, Mayor, City of Norfolk
- The Honorable Will Sessoms, Mayor, City of Virginia Beach
- Mr. Randy Keaton, Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

TIM KAINE  
VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540-4607  
Tel: 202-224-1104

COMMITTEE ON  
ARMED SERVICES

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

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FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON  
THE BUDGET

October 11, 2014

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20258

Dear Secretary Johnson:

I write to express my support for a Virginia Tech research proposal to serve as the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Critical Infrastructure Resilience Center of Excellence (CIRC) pursuant to the Funding Opportunity Announcement DHS-14-ST-061-COE-CIRC-001A.

The Virginia Bioinformatics Institute and the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology, both at Virginia Tech, have combined their assets to create an ideal research partnership to protect and strengthen the nation's critical infrastructure and key resources.


Electricity generation and distribution, water supply, food production and distribution, heating, public health, transportation, financial services, and security services are critical to the country's social and economic functioning. To prepare for and recover from catastrophic manmade or naturally occurring disruptions to critical infrastructures, we need superior scientific research, knowledge, and expertise.

The Virginia Tech research team is well structured to provide the Center of Excellence with proven leadership, in-depth knowledge, and experience. They have achieved significant accomplishments in modeling research using pioneering synthetic information platforms, and addressing epidemiological, transportation, and communication challenges at the national and international levels. Additional accomplishments include research achievements in signals intelligence, electronic warfare, cyber security, resilient systems, communications, and data.

The team includes private sector partners, such as Dominion Power, and firms with expertise and experience in resilience and information technology solutions. Virginia Tech will enable the Center to provide homeland security stakeholders throughout the country with decision processes of prioritizing investments, developing regulations, and optimizing local, regional, and national policies to ensure critical infrastructure resilience.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this request. Should you have any questions regarding my letter, kindly contact (b)(6) of my staff at (b)(6)

Sincerely,

  
Tim Kaine

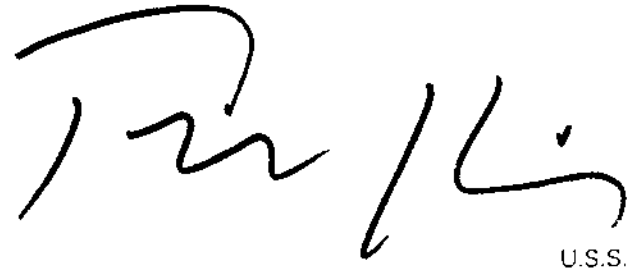
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United States Senate

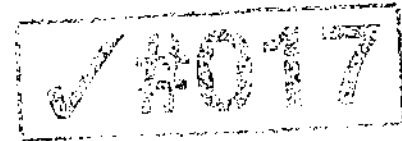
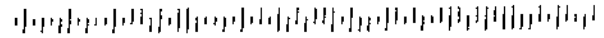
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



U.S.S.

The Honorable Jeh Johnson  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20258



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OCT 30 2014

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# United States Senate

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May 11, 2015

Mr. Nelson Peacock  
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs  
Department of Homeland Security

(b)(6)

Washington, DC 20229-0150

Dear Mr. Peacock:

I write to express support for the grant application of Congregation Adat Reyim in Springfield, a synagogue serving over 700 Virginians in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Congregation Adat Reyim seeks funding through the National Security Grant Program (NSGP) to keep the building safe from anti-Semitism, terrorism, child predators, and other threats.

Tragically, places of worship, though sacred, are not immune to intimidation and attacks. Congregation Adat Reyim has been subject to a number of security breaches in recent history. They have observed individuals filming and taking photographs while preschool was in session. They have had anti-Semitic symbols spray-painted on the front of the synagogue building during Passover. They have received threatening phone calls and hate literature and have endured bottle rockets detonated on property grounds. Additionally, congregation members have had to escort suspicious people off of the property on numerous occasions.

The synagogue has no cameras, very little exterior lighting, and the Executive Director considers the physical property at risk. With funding from the Department of Homeland Security, Congregation Adat Reyim can harden their targets of physical vulnerability.

Please give full and fair evaluation to this project, which will give peace of mind to a community trying to practice their faith in peace and secure a Springfield anchor. Should you have any questions regarding this project, kindly contact my Grants Coordinator (b)(6) Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Kaine

Office of Legislative Affairs

2015 MAY 29 AM 7:36