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December 16, 2020

Mr. Bill Lane
Landscape Architect
National Park Service, SERO
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
South Carolina/ North Carolina Project Manager

RE: Letter of Support - National Park Service - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance – Application

On behalf of the entire board of Brunswick Environmental Action Team (BEAT), I am pleased to provide a letter in support of the Brunswick County NAACP's proposed Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Multi-Use Greenway/Blueway Trail, Brunswick County, North Carolina.

The proposed Greenway/Blueway Trail aligns beautifully with BEAT's mission. BEAT is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the belief that stewardship of our environment is everyone's responsibility. BEAT exists as a resource to educate about the environment, to elevate awareness about environmental issues, and to advocate for conservation and preservation of the natural environment. BEAT partners with several regional non-profit organizations who also work to protect and improve land use, which includes sensitive coastal ecosystems. BEAT's vision is that Brunswick County communities will embrace conservation and protection of the environment as core values in personal, business, and governmental decision making.

The Brunswick County NAACP's proposal establishing a combination greenway and blueway will also help Brunswick County to honor and celebrate the Gullah Geechee people's contributions to our region. Brunswick County is one of the most rapidly developing counties in the country. This makes the decision to preserve green space, coastal habitats, and our national heritage areas even more urgent.

BEAT recognizes that a multi-use trail in this region will provide a safe corridor for healthy recreation and strengthen the existing East Coast Greenway's network in our area. By making pedestrian and bike travel safer and more desirable, the proposed project will also help address climate change issues by reducing our dependence on automobiles. Climate change is beginning to wreak havoc on our coastal communities with more severe storms and associated flooding.

BEAT believes this project will provide a better quality of life for children, adults, residents, and visitors while having a positive economic impact. Thank you for your consideration of this project. We look forward to following the progress.

Sincerely,

Pete Key, President

Board members: Dr. Sybil Burgess Murray, Linda Eastman, Dan George, Bob Jakus, Ted Janes, Pete Key, Marilyn Priddy, Jennifer Swift, and Dr. Dwight Willis