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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0502

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER, OCEANS, AND WILDLIFE – CHAIR
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RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
CLIMATE CRISIS

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the **Rural Resilience: Fighting Climate-Driven Collapse in Coastal Habitats** project in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is **Noyo Center for Marine Science**, located at PO Box 1321, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; 338 N. Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

The funding would be used to advance programs focused on research and education addressing a series of interrelated ecological crises stemming from the collapse of the kelp forests in Mendocino County's nearshore habitats. In the past five years, our region's kelp forests have decreased by 93% of normal. Sea star wasting disease decimated a key predator of purple sea urchins, followed by years of limited kelp forest growth due to higher ocean temperatures. Without predation, the urchins are voracious eaters of kelp. The accompanying explosion of the purple urchin population – as much as 60 times higher than normal – has prevented the kelp forests from recovering from these multiple blows.

I certify that neither I, nor my immediate family, has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress