



From the office of
Commissioner Michael S. Kohler, District Two

Sep 29, 2024

Community Change Program
U.S. Department of Environmental Protection
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

SUBJ: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE BLUFFLINE JACKSON LAKES EXTENSION

I am writing as the Commissioner of District 2, which includes Warrington, NAS Pensacola, and Jackson Lakes, to express my strong support for The Bluffline's application for the Community Change Grant. This project is critical for enhancing our infrastructure, improving ecological resilience, and supporting educational and military objectives.

In the communities of Brownsville and Warrington, known as "Corridors of Concern," residents face high rates of poverty and low educational attainment. The Bluffline project aims to address these issues by constructing safe, pedestrian-friendly routes to schools like Global Learning Academy and Warrington Preparatory Academy. These routes will enhance student safety, reduce truancy, and improve academic engagement, providing substantial support to some of our most underserved.

The Bluffline project is a cornerstone of the Warrington Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) plan, which focuses on revitalizing the Jackson Lakes area. This revitalization includes creating public green spaces and improving pedestrian infrastructure, which are essential for reducing environmental pollution and advancing climate resilience. These efforts are in alignment with the grant's goals of promoting sustainable community environments and mitigating climate risks.

The project also supports Escambia County's military mission, addressing key vulnerabilities such as blight, transportation safety, and low educational attainment identified in the NAS Pensacola Compatible Use Study and the Emerald Coast Military Installation Resiliency Review. By improving connectivity and transportation options for military and civilian personnel and their families, The Bluffline project enhances the sustainability of our bases, which are vital to the local economy.

By integrating improvements in education, military support, urban renewal, and environmental restoration, The Bluffline project offers a comprehensive model for sustainable community development. It represents a significant step toward transforming one of the most dynamic and diverse areas of Escambia County into a thriving, resilient community. This project not only supports the immediate needs of our residents but also aligns with your grant's objectives to deliver equitable, long-lasting benefits to our communities.

I urge you to provide your full support for this transformative initiative, recognizing its potential to dramatically uplift our district and serve as a beacon for community-driven change. Thank you for considering this vital initiative.

Very Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael S. Kohler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Michael S Kohler