



**THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY**

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**KEITH LEONARD, SUPERINTENDENT**

September 23, 2024

Community Change Grant Program  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Letter of Support for the Bluffline Jackson Lakes Extension – Community Change Grant Program Application

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the Bluffline Jackson Lakes Extension project and its application for funding through the EPA's Community Change Grant Program. This initiative presents a significant opportunity to improve the educational environment and overall well-being of students and families in West Pensacola.

The neighborhoods of Warrington and Brownsville, which are the focus of this project, have been designated as a "corridor of concern" due to persistent challenges associated with high poverty rates, low educational attainment, and various socioeconomic issues. The Bluffline Jackson Lakes Extension project aims to address these challenges by creating safe and accessible routes for students attending Global Learning Academy and Warrington Preparatory Academy. The proposed Bluffline greenway will traverse school district property on the western side of Global Learning Academy's campus. The Escambia County School District is dedicated to collaborating with Bluffline, Inc. to facilitate this alignment.

By permitting the greenway to extend through this section of the school's property, we are providing students with a safe and direct route to and from school, which is particularly important in a community where transportation safety is a significant concern. Furthermore, the educational programming associated with the Bluffline project, including initiatives focused on environmental stewardship and local history, will present our students with valuable, hands-on learning experiences. These programs are intended to enhance classroom instruction while promoting a deeper appreciation of the natural environment and the rich cultural heritage of our community.

The Escambia County School District is dedicated to working in partnership with Bluffline, Inc. and other stakeholders to ensure the successful execution of this project, which involves the utilization of district property at Global Learning Academy. This initiative aligns with and supports Bluffline, Inc.'s application for the Community Change Grant Program. We believe this project will significantly benefit the students and families in these high-priority neighborhoods.

Thank you for considering this important initiative. We kindly request your approval of Bluffline Inc.'s application and the allocation of the necessary funding to successfully implement the Bluffline Jackson Lakes Extension project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Keith Leonard

KL/dh