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30 March 2009

David A. Johnson, Executive Director
Coastal Steward
6 Audrey Street
Port Jefferson Station NY 11776

Dear Dave:

I am writing to support your application for a NOAA Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration Grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Your organization's work in cleaning the beaches of Long Island over the past two decades has garnered tremendous local support but marine debris is clearly a national problem that warrants a broader response. Hopefully, an expanded Coastal Stewart program will be able to network with similar entities in other states to make this a truly national effort. Beyond the environmental benefits of less littered beaches that are cited in your proposal, which are important, beach clean-ups offer an ideal opportunity for everyday citizens to personally do something positive and tangible on a priority environmental issue. This instills a sense of personal stewardship and responsibility among the public that is, in fact, a necessary foundation for tackling other, perhaps more difficult environmental issues. This, in my view, may be your program's greatest value.

Good luck with your submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill".

William M. Wise, Associate Director
School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

/WMW