

February 10, 2022

Congressman Raul Grijalva
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Grijalva,

On behalf of the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst, I am proud to express our strong support of the Climate Adaption Science Centers (CASC) Act. This legislation will ensure the advancement of climate adaptation science across the nation and better position natural and cultural resource managers to navigate the enormous challenges posed by climate change. This work lies at the core of our mission as a public, land-grant research institution.

UMass Amherst has been the host institution for the Northeast CASC (NE CSAC) since 2012, and the campus has witnessed the center advance its reputation as a vital force in both developing the information and facilitating the planning that are essential to successful climate adaptation by our local and state authorities. We fully support your effort and bill to codify these centers, and we know that authorization will help the CASC Network build on its outstanding record of producing high-impact science that informs resource management and helps protect our natural and cultural resources.

CASCs in general, and the NE CASC in particular, play an important role in training graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to ensure a pipeline of scientists who can take on climate change. Since its inception, the NE CASC has prepared more than 60 UMass Amherst graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from the fields of geosciences, environmental conservation, and civil engineering to become leaders in the field of climate adaptation by building their skills in science communication, engagement, and ethical collaboration. Within the NE CASC training program, participants collaborate across disciplines and partner with natural and cultural resource managers to inform climate change adaptation. We're proud that alumni of this program bring these invaluable skills to their careers in federal and state agencies, academia, and NGOs while building workforce capacity in a critical area.

NE CASC and UMass Amherst are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We recently established a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Fellows Initiative through a combination of UMass institutional support and funding provided by NE CASC's UMass Principal Investigators. NE CASC DEIJ Fellows have expanded outreach to Tribal Nations, enhanced understanding of Tribal knowledge within the center, created DEIJ trainings for a community of forty graduate student and postdoctoral fellows, evaluated and improved NE CASC's workplace climate, conducted original research on environmental justice and urban vulnerability to climate extremes, and connected with undergraduate STEM majors at minority-serving institutions to increase awareness of opportunities in climate adaptation science.

By providing a stable future for NE CASC (and the CASC Network more broadly), the CASC Act will profoundly benefit climate adaptation science and yield essential knowledge to guide us in preserving our natural and cultural resources.

With the passage of the CASC Act, we are confident that the impact of these critical organizations on our resources, the field of climate adaptation science, and the citizens of our country will only continue to grow. The University of Massachusetts Amherst is proud to unreservedly stand behind the CASC Act and the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center.

Sincerely,



Kumble R. Subbaswamy
Chancellor