



February 11, 2022

To the Natural Resources Committee of the United States House of Representatives,

Please accept this letter in support for *The Climate Adaptation Science Centers Act* (CASC Act). I am the State Climatologist of North Carolina and Director of the North Carolina State Climate Office. The North Carolina State Climate Office serves as a scientific extension resource for weather and climate science for the state, conducting climate science monitoring, education, extension, and research. As the State Climatologist, I also work closely with North Carolina state agencies to help them understand their climate risk. The Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SE CASC) has been instrumental in expanding the reach of the State Climate Office, partnering in education and communication, climate services, and co-developing tools and resources for decision makers.

The State Climate Office's newly awarded NOAA RISA team, *Carolinas Collaborative on Climate, Health, and Equity* will contribute to the SE CASC's highly esteemed Global Change Fellows Training Program and continue to collaborate in helping our partners to develop community-level climate literacy and resilience strategies. NC State University has become a hub for climate adaptation science, communication, and training in the Southeastern U.S., and I look forward to continued partnership with the SE CASC to tackle a problem that is significantly larger and more complex than any one entity can handle. Passing the CASC Act will allow us to continue to develop climate adaptation science and education for North and South Carolina and the Southeast region.

Building effective partnerships with state agencies, managers, and private landowners for climate adaptation requires long-term commitments. The CASC Act would provide long-term continuity and certainty in funding that would allow the State Climate Office to more effectively partner with the SE CASC. The CASC Act would allow us to develop a long-term plan to make sure we can meet the growing needs of climate risk and climate adaptation in our state and region. Please support the CASC Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K Dello", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kathie Dello
Director and State Climatologist, State Climate Office of North Carolina
Co-Director, Carolinas Collaborative on Climate, Health, and Equity
NC State University