

August 1, 2019

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
100&Change Review Committee
140 S. Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60603-5285

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter to provide my strong endorsement for the Rutgers University 100&Change proposal, "Empowering Hurricane Readiness and Response in the Caribbean". The proposed project embodies the university's global mission to develop cross-cultural engagement and facilitate strong, consequential partnerships with international institutions.

The project, led by Rutgers' preeminent Center for Ocean Observing Leadership (RUCOOL), offers both a timely and appropriate approach to a monumental problem: the disproportionate devastation incurred by Caribbean nations and the gulf coast of the US as a result of hurricanes of increasing frequency and intensity. As a global leader in oceanic observation and climate science, Rutgers is perfectly positioned to strengthen and sustain the types of international networks that a solution to this problem necessitates.

Rutgers, as one of the most diverse institutions of higher education in the nation, draws strength from the rich variety of perspectives and life experiences within its community. By extension, this ethos compels us to reach far beyond our borders, forming hundreds of cooperative partnerships with institutions in diverse settings across the globe. The Rutgers 100&Change project is a prime example of this, as its team leaders have called together domestic, regional, and international partners to address a critical problem facing some of the world's most vulnerable populations. Undoubtedly, MacArthur's support would enable Rutgers and its partners to accelerate and amplify proven approaches to hurricane forecasting and response, and perhaps more importantly, will equip local communities in the Caribbean with the tools to sustain these efforts.

Our fundamental calling at Rutgers is to apply the university's world-class leadership in research, teaching and service to the public good – for New Jersey, the United States, and the world. Rutgers is proud to both create and share scientific knowledge for the betterment of humans around the planet, and this project epitomizes our mission.

Sincerely,



Eric Garfunkel, Ph.D.
Vice President for Global Affairs
Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Physics