



Robert L. Barchi, President

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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 am proud to endorse the project, “Empowering Hurricane Readiness and Response in the Caribbean,” which has been put forward for the 100&Change competition sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The Caribbean is the most vulnerable region for hurricanes, while also being the least prepared. As the oceans continue to warm, increasing the frequency and intensity of hurricanes, the need for solutions has become more urgent. In response, Rutgers proposes to marshal the expertise and resources necessary to roll out a plan that will seek to save lives and build resiliency in the Caribbean.

As president of Rutgers University, which boasts a world-class cadre of oceanic and atmospheric researchers, I am particularly excited about the potential of this project to address one of the most imminent threats posed by climate change. In just the past decade, nearly 12,000 people in Latin America and the Caribbean have been killed by hurricanes and tropical storms—including 2017’s devastating Hurricane Maria. We can’t stop the hurricanes, but we can prevent them from causing a catastrophe if we greatly improve warning, response, and recovery systems. Every year we lose to inaction will inevitably result in greater damage and more deaths.

The Rutgers Center for Ocean Observing Leadership proposes to assemble an international team with vital expertise and the ability to implement on-the-ground training and response to mitigate the impact of hurricanes and save lives. Just as important, when this model is brought to scale, it will serve as a solution that can be replicated in other regions of the world facing devastating weather effects of a changing climate.

The MacArthur Foundation is renowned for championing bold thinkers and innovations that can change the world. I am convinced that this project proposal can have a profound impact not only on populations within the Caribbean but also on billions of people in coastal regions across the globe.

Sincerely,

Robert Barchi