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Executive Secretariat - Indian Affairs (ESIA)

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Mr. Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W. MS - 4071-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

October 24, 2024

Dear Assistant Secretary Newland,

I am pleased to provide my letter of support for the Mattaponi Indian Tribe and Reservation's Federal Recognition Petition project in King William County, Virginia.

The Mattaponi Indian Tribe's petition contains substantial evidence and documentation in support of becoming a Federally Recognized Tribe.

I further offer that the history of the Mattaponi Tribe is, without question, also part of the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Mattaponi Tribe is one of two reservations in the Commonwealth of Virginia on lands that were reserved for the tribe in colonial treaties. Over the past 346 years the Mattaponi tribe has maintained their treaty relationship, initiated with the 1646 Articles of Peace and continued with the 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation, with lands further preserved by a 1658 Act of the General Assembly.

I write with great admiration for the friendship the Commonwealth shares with Chief Mark T. Custalow, the Mattaponi Tribe, and its citizens, and again express my support for the approval of the Mattaponi Tribe's Federal Recognition submission.

Sincerely,

Winsome Earle-Sears