

September 16, 2021

To: Charles White
Director, Emergency Management Agency
Camden County Georgia

Subject: Economic Development Administration
Via Coastal Regional Commission, Darien GA

The Georgia Institute of Technology, Program in Ocean Science & Engineering is fully supportive of the application for assistance from the Economic Development Administration being prepared by the Coastal Regional Commission. The provision of funding for needed infrastructure improvements will enable Camden County to rapidly develop Spaceport Camden which will bring significant economic investment through high paying jobs for this area.

Camden County, as a coastal community, is fully invested in building a resilient economy, while also growing their Blue Economy. Camden County, as all coastal communities is vulnerable to sea level rise, and the impacts of tropical storms. Camden County has demonstrated their commitment to mitigating effects of sea level rise, and continues to invest in resiliency as demonstrated by their partnership with Georgia Institute of Technology, Program in Ocean Science & Engineering, as well as with the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay Georgia for sea level rise monitoring.

Spaceport Camden will also provide an opportunity for further partnership between the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Camden County in the areas of Ocean Science & Engineering. Camden County continues to recognize the "big picture" in terms of building resiliency with their latest acquisition of a facility in Camden County that will serve as the Camden County Resiliency Center, necessary to ensure that all future investments are informed by science through real-time sensors and data mining.

The Georgia Institute of Technology is excited to be in partnership with a County that recognizes its role in leading the development of a resilient community to the benefit of all citizens. The Georgia Institute of Technology, Program in Ocean Science & Engineering fully supports this request for federal funding, recognizing the benefits associated with Camden County building a sustainable, resilient, economic center that will benefit the citizens of Camden County, and the region.



Emanuele Di Lorenzo

Professor, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Director, Program in Ocean Science & Engineering
Chairman, Ocean Visions