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LD 2214

As Economic & Community Development Director, I am speaking on behalf of the Town of Stonington in supporting and applauding the Governor's request for additional funding for the Community Resiliency Partnership Program. Both the Program itself, in helping to identify and clarify energy and climate resilience goals for small municipalities, and its competitive granting are very important to the Town's ongoing efforts to be resilient in the face of the massive changes with which we are confronted.

In the year since Stonington has joined the program, we have been able to leverage our membership with other state funding agencies to advance critical planning initiatives in regard to sea level rise and our working waterfront infrastructure. Along with our colleagues in Deer Isle, we are also participating in the national Energy Transitions Partnership Program. The Community Resilience Partnership continues to help guide and support our priorities.

It is not ever easy for small towns such as Stonington, population 1,000 yet with a statewide economic impact belying its size, to match all the funding that is needed to confront climate change. We need more programs and funding like the CRP in order to implement all tools at our disposal to be resilient, as economies and communities, in the face of the challenges we are facing. The December and January storms put a huge dent in the valuable infrastructure of our working waterfront. We need all sources of support on deck to build back better and to look together with other coastal communities towards the future.

Additional funding will ensure ours and others' successes in these efforts.

You can learn more about our work for economic, community, and climate resilience at <https://www.stoningtonmaine.org/gov/economic-development.php>