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Ms. Marianne Larned
Stone Soup Leadership Institute
P.O. Box 4551
Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Dear Ms. Larned,

Thank you for meeting with me to discuss the initiative by the Stone Soup Leadership Institute to enhance the understanding and experience of Island students with marine ecology. I too am surprised and frustrated with the lack of opportunity available to the K-12 students while living in this unique and fragile coastal environment. I am familiar with the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program and I agree that the scope of the program is a perfect match to what the Island of Martha's Vineyard is seeking.

I would be happy to participate with your project and support the grant application from the Stone Soup Institute. I have served the Tribe for nearly twenty years. I can support this initiative with the experience of my staff and the insight to the ongoing projects of the Natural Resources Department focused directly on the sustainability and restoration of our resources for the next seven generations. The Tribe has a water quality laboratory and several ongoing projects that would provide tremendous insight and experience to eager students.

I applaud your efforts and support the initiative. Thank you for your passion and inclusion.

Best regards,

Bret Stearns
Director, Natural Resources Department

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