



## New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability

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March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **Letter of Support for the NJ School of Conservation Proposal – Friends of the NJSOC**

Dear Members of the Evaluation Committee,

I write to you today to express strong support for the Expression of interest being submitted by the Friends of NJSOC. I express this support in three capacities:

- As President of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS);
- As Director of the Center for Sustainability at the Ramapo College of New Jersey; and
- As a Professor of Sustainability at Ramapo College, engaged in many ways with promoting Education for Sustainability (EfS)

I have worked with the Friends of the NJSOC for some time now, with particular interest in developing their role in promoting experiential learning for the entire K-16 education system in New Jersey—with a particular focus on the northern parts of the State.

I have also long participated in discussions about ways of better integrating the functions of the NJ School of Conservation with the entire educational complex in New Jersey.

I strongly believe that for the NJ School of Conservation to live up to its full potential as a site for connecting with nature, it MUST be integrated with the broader K-16 system.

This RFEI represents, from my view, an incredible opportunity for the State of New Jersey to bring ALL our students into a context where they can, actually, grow their understanding of our socio-ecological systems.

If there is any additional way in which I can be of help with this process, and show my support for outdoor and nature education, or if I can clarify my expression of support, please do not hesitate contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashwani Vasishth', written in a cursive style.

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