



November 9, 2022

Re: Letter of Support, SARE Producer Grant "The Effectiveness of Attracting Oyster Spat on PVC versus Bamboo Stakes as a Reef Restoration Effort in the North Edisto River."

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to confirm my commitment to partner on the Southern SARE Producer Grant application entitled "The Effectiveness of Attracting Oyster Spat on PVC versus Bamboo Stakes as a Reef Restoration Effort in the North Edisto River.", proposed by Barrier Island Oyster Company.

I have been working with agriculture and mariculture businesses in South Carolina and beyond for over 25 years. Improving the environmental and economic sustainability of agricultural businesses is crucial to the health of our planet. Oyster farming is an industry that is inherently regenerative in nature and makes great contributions to improving the marine ecosystem. There are many opportunities to improve the industry that can be supported by on-farm research. I believe the research that Barrier Island Oysters plans to conduct is integral to the growth and success of the industry in our region.

My background in agribusiness and experience researching and working alongside mariculture businesses in the state will add to the reliability and utility of the on-farm research that Barrier Island Oysters will be conducting. As a partner I plan to offer guidance on experimental design as well as data organization and interpretation. This will be in conjunction with my normal duties as a Senior Extension Associate.

I look forward to the success of the proposal, the continued success of Barrier Island Oyster Company, and in-turn, a strengthened commercial oyster production industry in Southeast United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Richards". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Steven Richards
Clemson Extension
Agribusiness Senior Extension Associate