



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NORTH ATLANTIC COAST COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
University of Rhode Island
Narragansett Bay Campus
Narragansett, RI 02882

April 3, 2013

Dr. Judith Swift
Director, Coastal Institute and
Director, North Atlantic Coast CESU
University of Rhode Island
South Ferry Rd.
Narragansett, RI 02882

Dear Judith:

On behalf of the National Park Service, it is with pleasure that I submit this letter in support of *Harvard University's* application to be affiliated with the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU). The National Park Service has a longstanding relationship with Harvard University, especially regarding the leadership role that Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ; Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology) has played in our All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory at Boston Harbor Islands national park area. Beginning with the vision of Drs. E. O. Wilson and Brian Farrell and active participation of post-doctoral fellows and graduate students, an extraordinary inventory of insects and other invertebrates is being assembled for the Islands, coupled with an education program and curriculum development that brings thousands of school children to the Islands to engage in biodiversity learning (<http://www.nps.gov/boha/naturescience/atbi.htm>). At the national level, Dr. Jessica Rykken (MCZ) is expanding her much valued collaboration with Boston Harbor Islands and is now guiding our Washington Office toward development of a Taxonomists-in-Parks program with the goal of promoting biodiversity inventories throughout the Service.

For decades the National Park Service has enjoyed productive collaborations with many affiliated with the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology (e.g., MCZ, Harvard Forest, Farlow Herbarium), often related to expert assistance with species inventories and habitat studies (e.g., fishes, marine benthic and freshwater invertebrates, lichens, slim molds, etc.). Dr. E.O. Wilson has served as a most distinguished member of the National Park System Advisory Board. Through Harvard's membership in the CESU Network we look forward to continuing these collaborations and enhancing our interaction with those at Harvard with an expertise in anthropology, archeology, ethnography, history, and other disciplines of immediate relevance to protecting and understanding some of our nation's most outstanding natural and cultural resources.

Harvard University will be a welcomed member of the North Atlantic Coast CESU and the National CESU Network. I expect there to be many opportunities for Harvard scientists to collaborate with the National Park Service and with the other federal agencies affiliated with the CESU program.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Roman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles T. Roman, Ph.D.
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and
Coastal Ecologist, Northeast Region
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cc: Professor John Wakeley
Chair, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology

Professor Brian Farrell
Curator of Entomology, Museum of Comparative Zoology

Dr. Mary Foley
Chief Scientist, National Park Service, Northeast Region