

Name of Exhibit: **ExhibitGLongTermCommitment**

Name of Applicant: **The State of Connecticut**

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**Long-term Commitment.** The Connecticut Climate Preparedness Plan, released in 2013, advanced legally-mandated efforts to prepare for climate change. The Connecticut Long-Term Recovery Committee and the Shoreline Preservation Task Force laid the foundation for two laws passed since Sandy: *An Act Concerning the Permitting of Certain Coastal Structures by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection* and *An Act Concerning Climate Change Adaptation and Data Collection*. The first law required the consideration of sea level rise in the state’s civil preparedness plan, applications to the Clean Water Fund, state and municipal plans of Conservation and Development, as well as in municipal evacuation or hazard mitigation plans, and also required the development of best practices for coastal structures. The second law led to the creation of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation, a UConn-DEEP partnership, which was established to support adaptation to rising sea levels.

**Improving the built environment.** One year after Sandy, the Shore Up CT program was created and supported with \$25 million in bond funds. Shore Up CT, administered by CT DOH, helps property owners located in flood zones VE or AE finance or refinance property elevations and retrofits for flood and wind proofing. Eligible properties include those not otherwise eligible for assistance programs such as second homes, commercial properties, and owner-occupied multi-family units. The program elevates all residential properties higher than the minimum standard to the 500-year flood height +1’ which adds 3’ of protection on average. Shore Up’s goal is to complete 20 loans in the first 12 months. Applications correlate well with the areas hit hardest by Sandy, which demonstrates that the program is reaching target areas. As the average loan is approximately \$125,000, the initial \$25 million investment has the potential to improve around 200 homes. The program is a revolving loan fund so it can assist homeowners well into the future.

**Easements.** In areas impacted by Irene and Sandy, some residents have chosen to relocate outside of the floodplain. In the Old Field Creek area of West Haven, floodplain easements will be acquired

on 33 properties through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Emergency Watershed Protection Program. The easements will be converted to open space in perpetuity and will prevent future damages and risks to public safety and improve critical habitat.

**Building codes.** Several communities enacted regulations providing an additional safety margin for vulnerable structures. Darien, Greenwich, Stamford, and New Haven all require an additional foot of freeboard for all new residential, non-residential, and manufactured homes in the VE, A, AE flood hazard zones. Stratford requires an additional foot for structures in the VE zone. Bridgeport recently added additional amended zoning regulations to facilitate elevations.

**Floodplain management.** Connecticut's Flood Management statutes extend beyond FEMA's requirements. All activities must comply with the requirements of CGS 25-68d(b) and Section 25-68h-I, and through 25-68h-3 of the Regulations of CT State Agencies, and this includes any projects using public funding (whether state actions or federal passed through a state agency). Any activity within the floodplain must be in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). All critical facilities must be elevated 1' above the 500-year flood elevation. Furthermore, proposals must promote long-term non-intensive floodplain uses and have utilities located to discourage floodplain development. The Connecticut Coastal Management statutes seek to ensure that coastal development protects natural resources like living shorelines, minimizes risks to life and property, and minimizes shoreline armoring.

**Microgrids.** The State has dedicated an additional \$15M to the Microgrid Pilot Program. Two of the initial projects will benefit Bridgeport and Fairfield, communities heavily impacted by Sandy. The Bridgeport project will help prevent critical infrastructure (City Hall, Police Headquarters, Senior Center) from going offline during major events. The Fairfield Public Safety Microgrid project will benefit the town's emergency operation center, fire department headquarters, police station, a cell tower and the homeless shelter at Operation Hope.