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# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PARTNERS IN FLIGHT PROGRAM



Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Attn: Virginia Land Conservation Foundation  
203 Governor Street, Suite 326  
Richmond, VA 23219

September 20, 2005

In reference to:  
Project name—Merrimac Farm  
Grant applicant—Prince William Conservation Alliance

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Defense (DoD) supports off-site efforts to reduce encroachment on its military activities by promoting buffer lands, encouraging conservation easements, and maintaining and restoring wetlands. These efforts help sustain the military training environment, protect watersheds and water quality, and enhance efforts to conserve the natural resources on an installation and in the surrounding landscape. The DoD Partners in Flight Program works with DoD natural resources personnel to conserve birds and their habitats on military lands, in concert with the military mission.

The Merrimac Farm project is compatible with DoD efforts to reduce encroachment, sustain the training mission, and protect and conserve wetland and forest habitat around Marine Corps Base Quantico. Studies of migratory birds at Quantico have shown the installation supports significant breeding populations of migratory and resident birds, and is also a major link in the migration steppingstones for long distance migrant bird species. In addition to helping Marine Corps Base Quantico sustain its training mission, this project addresses goals set forth by the state of Virginia to restore the Chesapeake Bay, protect farms and forests, and increase public access and education opportunities for natural outdoor environments. The DoD Partners in Flight Program depends on active partnerships to maximize bird conservation efforts. Similarly, this project represents a partnership model that will create opportunities for effective conservation action and public benefit in a county that is experiencing rapid development, often at the expense of such opportunities.

Very respectfully,

Chris Eberly  
Program Manager

cc: Prince William Conservation Alliance

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Visit the Department of Defense Partners in Flight web site at <http://www.dodpif.org>