Dear Mr. Arneson, October 16, 2019

I am very excited at the prospect of serving on the Richmond Conservation Commission, and I hope you will agree that my professional experience, my service, and my deep commitment to equitable conservation prepare me well for joining the Commission.

I recently returned to Vermont after spending the past five years in the Pacific Northwest, where I completed my PhD in conservation and landscape ecology at the University of Washington. Although I came to love the PNW, I was thrilled to return home to the northern hardwoods and to a tight-knit Vermont community where residents are empowered and impassioned to participate in conservation and land management decision-making. That sort of engagement is critical in guiding us towards a sustainable future as global stressors like climate change interact with local pressures like a burgeoning population throughout Chittenden County. Now, as an engaged resident of Richmond, I am eager to bring my conservation experience and expertise to bear on the Commission.

I am a broadly trained ecologist, and I focus my research on addressing conservation and climate adaptation questions that are directly relevant to private and public land management. For example, I have quantified the ecological impacts of harvesting forest bioenergy across New England, tested whether Washington land-use regulations afford the same habitat protection as state land acquisitions, and modeled landscape connectivity across North America for species to track suitable climate conditions. I have helped develop data collection tools for Vermont's Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and I serve as a field-verifier for forest carbon projects, work that has taken me from the temperate rainforests of coastal Alaska to the yellow pine plantations of Alabama. From my experiences across these diverse systems, I can say that Richmond—and northern Vermont in general—is well poised to be a leader in promoting equitable and climate-smart conservation and land management.

For Richmond to achieve that, however, will require thoughtful, intentional work that is both grounded in ecological science and also acknowledges the needs and values of the community. For example, what are the trade-offs associated with managing the Andrews Community Forest in a manner that reflects the realities of a changing climate, invasive species, and deer overpopulation while balancing shifting recreational demands of the community? As Richmond becomes a regional recreation destination, what are the trade-offs between promoting a healthy tourism economy and preserving the area's rural character? I believe my research, teaching, and service—as well as my own personal outdoor recreation—have prepared me well for understanding and articulating such trade-offs and for liaising between the public and land management decision-makers.

Finally, I am confident that my colleagues and fellow community members would speak highly of my communication and organization skills, my systems-thinking approach, my personal energy, and my love of wild places. A one-page CV follows this letter; I am happy to elaborate on any of the items therein or provide more information. I thank you for considering my interest in joining the Richmond Conservation Commission and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Littlefield

Caitlin E. Littlefield

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Education

PhD, Conservation and Landscape Ecology. University of Washington (UW), Seattle, WA 2018

MS, Natural Resources: Forest Ecology. University of Vermont (UVM), Burlington, VT 2012

BA, Conservation Biology*, magna cum laude*, minor in Economics. Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 2008

Select Research & Professional Experience

Post-doctoral Fellow, Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center & University of Montana 2018 - *ongoing*

Forest Carbon Project Verifier, S&A Carbon, Portland, OR 2017 - *ongoing*

Research Assistant, Conservation & Landscape Ecology Lab, UW 2014 - 2018

Forest Analytics Consultant, R.J. Turner Company, Bristol, VT 2012 - 2013

Research Assistant, Carbon Dynamics Lab, UVM 2009 - 2012

Select Teaching & Mentoring Experience

Instructor of Record, Sustainable Forest Ecosystem Management, UVM 2020 *(upcoming)*

Instructor of Record, Conservation through Time, UW (Bothell campus) 2017

Instructor of Record, Introduction to Environmental Issues, UW (Bothell campus) 2016 - 2017

Assistant Instructor, Classroom in the Field, Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, UW 2014

Instructor of Record, Environmental Policy and Globalization, Champlain College, Burlington, VT 2013

Assistant Instructor, Governors Institute of Vermont: Environmental Science, Burlington, VT 2011 - 2013

Instructor, Vermont Works For Women's Girls Adventure Camp, Burlington, VT 2012

Instructor, Alpine Environmental Education Center at Chalet Hohliebi, Lenk, Switzerland 2008

Select Publications

Littlefield, C.E. 2019. Topography and post-fire climatic conditions structure temporal and spatial patterns of conifer establishment and growth. *Fire Ecology* 15:34.

Littlefield, C.E., M. Krosby, J. Michalak, and J.J. Lawler. 2019. Connectivity for species on the move: approaches to aid climate-driven range shifts. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 17(5): 270–278.

Littlefield, C.E., E. Nelson, B. Dittbrenner, J. Withey, K. Arkema, and J. Lawler. 2019. Ecosystem-based Adaptation. Chapter 23 in T.E. Lovejoy and L. Hannah (eds.). *Biodiversity and Climate Change: Transforming the Biosphere*. Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut.

Littlefield, C.E., B.H. McRae, J. Michalak, J.J. Lawler, and C. Carroll. 2017. Connecting today's climates to future climate analogs to facilitate movement of species under climate change. *Conservation Biology*. 31(6)1397-1408.

Littlefield, C.E. and W.S. Keeton. 2012. Bioenergy harvesting impacts on ecologically important stand structure and habitat characteristics. *Ecological Applications* 22(7):1892-1909.

Select Service

Equity, Inclusion, & Diversity Committee, Society for Conservation Biology - N. America 2018 - *ongoing*

National Science Foundation STEM Ambassador Program for public engagement training 2018 - *ongoing*

Trip leader, Sierra Club's Inner-City Outings (for underserved Seattle middle-schoolers) 2015 - 2018

STEM tutor, UW Women's Center College Readiness Program (for underserved high-schoolers) 2014 - 2018