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November 8th, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the mission of Coalition of Hope (COH), in re-purposing mothballed naval vessels, for use in Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Response (HADR) missions. As a disaster response professional, with experience in numerous major disasters, both domestic and foreign, I have seen first hand the value potential of missions as planned by Coalition of Hope.

ResponseForce1, llc (RF1) has been working with FEMA, HHS and various state and local agencies, since 2007. My own experience, prior to forming ResponseForce1, goes back to the events of 9/11/2001. In many of these cases, including Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, having water-borne HADR capabilities would have been game-changing.

Most recently, COH has introduced AIR CARE – a drone-based response / lifeline capability. RF1 has experience in the use of Unmanned Small Aerial Vehicles (UAS) , for damage assessment and inspections. I am personally an FAA Licensed Remote Pilot. Adding the ability to deliver supplies to those in need will be very impactful.

We strongly urge you to support the COH Excelsior program. I will be happy to speak on their behalf, at any time. My contact information is include, below.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Minyard".

Ed Minyard, CISM, CBCP, CRISC(ret)
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