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To Whom it May Concern,

Company/School

Address

City, State, Zip

My name is William Harrison Kish, a biology major at Longwood University. I am interested in conservation ecology, particularly the effects of urbanization on native animal populations, specifically with spiders. My research mentor, Dr. Sujan Henkanaththegedara, has introduced me to conservation biology and citizen science through our campus BioBlitz.

My course work and research experiences have given me a good background in conservation biology and citizen science. For example, Conservation Biology with Dr. Mark Fink allowed me to study the different techniques that conservation biologists use to preserve and conserve nature. In my Ecology and Evolution course, I studied how invasive species compare to native species, particularly in crayfish. I studied how the invasive red-swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) and native piedmont crayfish (*Cambarus* sp. C) compete for a similar food source, bull frog tadpoles (*Lithobates catesbeianus*).

In my own independent research project with Dr. Sujan Henkanaththegedara, I examined how intermediate disturbance hypothesis affected the spider community in Longwood University's local floodplain. With my project, I learned various sampling techniques, used various identification guides and keys, maintained and statistically analyzed my own data set, and identified over 100 species of spiders. This research also allowed me to publish my findings in the Virginia Journal of Science.

In the spring semester and summer of 2018, I underwent field research in High Bridge Trail State Park examining the biodiversity of aquatic invertebrates and amphibians. I also examined the physiochemical parameters of vernal pools and how it affected the biodiversity of aquatic invertebrates and amphibians. At the end of the research, I presented my findings at the Virginia Academy of Science that was held at Longwood University. During this research, I developed my own research project, collected and maintained my own data, became familiar with identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates, and taught local master naturalists the sampling techniques for future citizen science projects.

After reviewing my resume, I hope that you will agree that I am a competitive and competent candidate for your graduate program and a position in your lab. I am looking forward to meeting you in person, so I can elaborate on my skills and abilities that can be beneficial to your lab. I

can be reached at (804)-912-0384 or via email at william.kish@live.longwood.edu to arrange for a convenient meeting time.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

William Harrison Kish