



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Senator Chris Van Hollen
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Congressman John Sarbanes
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area designation

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Sarbanes:

Please accept this letter in support of your efforts to establish a Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as a unit of the National Park Service (NPS) to promote stewardship of the Chesapeake region's natural, cultural, and recreational resources in Maryland and Virginia.

As a lifelong Marylander, and former school teacher, I understand Maryland's place in our Nation's history, and support efforts to raise awareness of and access to our rich historic and cultural resources. As the County Executive of Baltimore County, I have prioritized the expansion and improvement of county parks and recreational amenities as well as the development and promotion of heritage and outdoor tourism. These are the resources that make Baltimore County, and by extension, the entire Chesapeake Region unique.

Establishing a unified Chesapeake National Recreational Area in Maryland and Virginia stands to benefit so many small community-based historic and cultural sites by connecting them to others across the Chesapeake region. Doing so in a collaborative, voluntary manner, without creating additional regulations or restrictions on existing uses or users, will ensure preservation of the very characteristics your legislation seeks to highlight.

As such, I am pleased to offer my support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Olszewski, Jr.", is written over a circular blue ink stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John A. Olszewski, Jr.
Baltimore County Executive