

June 22, 2023



14 South Main Street
Berlin, MD 21811
BeachesBaysWaterWays.com
info@BeachtoBayHeritage.org
410-251-3163

BOARD MEMBERS

Russ Blake
Mindie Burgoyne, **TREASURER**
Christina Carlson
Matt Creamer
Curtis Dale
Kristen Goller, **PRESIDENT**
Ann Hillyer
Jack Lenox
Aaron Levinthal
Dr. Mona Margarita, **SECRETARY**
George Ojje-Ahamiojie
Melanie Pursel
Carrie Samis, **VICE PRESIDENT**
Cynthia Stevens
Dr. Clara Small
Clint Sterling
Ivy Wells
Lee Whaley
Bill Wilson
Liz Wist

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lisa Challenger

U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen,

On behalf of the Beach to Bay Heritage Area, I want to lend our enthusiastic support for legislation that will designate a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA).

This venture has the potential to provide ecological, cultural, and economic benefits to the region.

The CNRA would utilize a collection of partnerships with states, localities, and private entities intended to highlight the diverse landscape and national significance of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and the largest estuary in the nation. This effort will highlight the ecological importance, iconic landscape, rich culture and history, and vast recreational benefits of the region and will tell a common narrative about the nation's largest estuary and one of the world's largest environmental restoration efforts.

The Chesapeake Bay watershed is also home to numerous cultural heritage sites that tell the story of our nation's inception. The CNRA will highlight the stories that often go untold – those of Indigenous peoples, free and enslaved Blacks, and watermen and women who've all played a vital role in the economic success and health of the Bay region.

Rather than a single place, the CNRA will build on the success of the National Park Service Chesapeake Gateways and Water Trails Program and elevate key, discrete sites around the Bay while linking them together under the coordinated brand of the Park Service.

We are very excited to see this effort being put forward and support it wholeheartedly!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Challenger".

Lisa Challenger
Executive Director