



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
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July 11, 2023

The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen
United States Senate
1101 Mercantile Lane, Suite 210
Largo, MD 20774

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

We are pleased to hear about the draft legislation co-authored by yourself and Congressman Sarbanes to designate a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as part of the National Park System. Your bill aims to spotlight the Chesapeake Bay's national significance and the stories which have shaped its identity. Additionally, it seeks to deliver more federal resources to the watershed region, grow its economic prosperity, preserve its environment and foster greater public access to the bay.

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan referred to the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the country, as a national treasure. As such, it is imperative to all who live on the watershed to do their part in preserving this treasure for generations to come. We, therefore, write in support of a unified CNRA as part of the National Park System, with appropriate safeguards for both environmental and economic interests.

Should you have questions or wish to discuss further, please contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, ext. 2200.

Sincerely, Members of the

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Mark C. Cox Sr. in blue ink.

Mark C. Cox Sr.

Handwritten signature of Catherine M. Grasso in blue ink.

Catherine M. Grasso

Handwritten signature of Todd Ireland in blue ink.

Todd Ireland