



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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July 25, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Support for the Designation of the Chesapeake National Recreation Area

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

The Charles County Board of Commissioners is writing to express our support for the designation of the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA). We join our community in advocating for the preservation of our natural treasures and believe that the establishment of the CNRA will be a significant step in safeguarding the ecological, cultural, and historical significance of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay holds a special place in the hearts of many, not only for its natural beauty but also for the rich tapestry of history and culture it embodies. Designating the CNRA will bring well-deserved national recognition to the Bay's importance and will provide crucial resources to support its conservation efforts. This designation will serve as a testament to the nation's commitment to preserving our natural heritage for generations to come.

Moreover, the CNRA will play a vital role in sharing the stories of the Chesapeake Bay's significance as the largest estuary in the United States and its role as one of the world's largest environmental restoration endeavors. By showcasing the contributions of the individuals and communities that have dedicated themselves to the Bay's protection, the CNRA will not only educate the public but also inspire more people to take part in the conservation efforts.

The collaborative nature of the CNRA is commendable. By leveraging partnerships between the National Park Service, states, and localities, the CNRA ensures that existing sites and resources are put to the best use in safeguarding the Bay's delicate ecosystem. Furthermore, by highlighting the diverse groups of people living around the Chesapeake Bay, the CNRA will foster an inclusive approach to conservation that respects and cherishes the region's rich cultural heritage.

The CNRA will undoubtedly bring national recognition to the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and provide the necessary resources to protect its natural, cultural, historical, and recreational significance. It will advance environmental conservation efforts and be a source of pride for all of us who live here and care about preserving our

nation's natural wonders. Additionally, we know it will create opportunities for growth and prosperity in the region, benefiting both residents and visitors alike.

We are pleased to voice our support for the designation of the Chesapeake National Recreation Area for the benefit of current and future generations and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RBC', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq.
President, Charles County Board of Commissioners