



# CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM

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July 25, 2023

Senator Chris Van Hollen  
Eastern Shore Office  
204 Cedar Street  
Suite 200C  
Cambridge, MD 21613

Dear Senator Van Hollen,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM), I wish to share our support for the designation of a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as part of the National Park System. Establishment of the recreation area is a pivotal opportunity to protect the Bay's natural heritage, promote tourism, and foster a deeper appreciation for the environment and the Bay's recreational significance.

The Chesapeake Bay is an ecological gem, boasting a diverse ecosystem that provides habitat to countless species of wildlife and serves as a vital link in the migratory routes of many birds. This unique and fragile ecosystem faces numerous challenges, including pollution, habitat loss, and the effects of climate change. By designating the Chesapeake Bay as a National Recreation Area, its conservation status can be elevated and significant steps toward safeguarding its natural beauty for current and future generations can be taken.

One of the primary benefits of establishing the CNRA is the increased protection it would afford to the Bay's wetlands, forests, and waterways. By preserving these critical natural habitats, we can help maintain biodiversity, support local ecosystems, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Additionally, the recreation area designation would enhance collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies, as well as partner organizations, leading to improved conservation efforts and streamlined management practices.

The Chesapeake Bay has a rich cultural and historical significance, serving as a source of livelihood, sustenance, and recreation for communities living along its shores for centuries. Establishing the CNRA would not only protect the area's natural wonders but also celebrate its cultural heritage, providing opportunities for visitors to learn about the history and traditions of the region. This, in turn, can foster a sense of pride and stewardship among local communities, ensuring continued support for conservation initiatives.

Furthermore, the CNRA would undoubtedly boost tourism in the region, benefiting the local economy and creating new employment opportunities. A well-managed recreation area would attract visitors from across the country and around the world, providing them with memorable experiences while also contributing to the economic growth of nearby communities. CBMM would be honored to partner in this regard.

I commend your efforts in championing the Chesapeake National Recreation Area and urge you to continue working with your colleagues in Congress to make this vision a reality. The creation of the CNRA will leave a legacy of environmental stewardship, cultural preservation, and economic prosperity for our region and the nation.

Thank you, Senator Van Hollen, for your dedication to environmental conservation and advocating for the protection of the Chesapeake Bay. Your leadership on this issue gives me hope that we can secure a vibrant and sustainable future for this cherished natural treasure.

Yours sincerely,



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