

# Town of Chestertown

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Senator Van Hollen  
110 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

July 17, 2023

Dear Senator Van Hollen,

As Mayor of Chestertown and a former Riverkeeper for the Chester River, I enthusiastically support the proposed legislation creating a Chesapeake National Recreation Area. I see this unique natural resource as an economic engine for sustainable recreation tourism and an aquatic classroom for children of all ages.

Creating a Chesapeake National Recreation Area will be a valuable complement to other programs in our area, such as the Sultana Education Foundation and its environmental education of school children. This program, together with nearby camps such as Echo Hill, Tockwogh, and Pecometh, not only makes use of the valuable environmental resources of the Chesapeake but also helps educate future generations on the importance of protecting them.

By partnering with other historically and environmentally significant resources in the region and improving the Chesapeake Gateways, the CNRA can simultaneously enhance and expand opportunities for more people to enjoy this vital resource. This combination of education, recreation, and restoration also helps provide critically needed employment in a region historically lagging economically behind other areas of Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Foster".

David Foster  
Mayor of Chestertown