



TOWN OF EASTON

14 S. Harrison Street, P.O. Box 520
Easton, Maryland 21601
Phone: 410-822-2525
www.eastonmd.gov

July 11, 2023

Dear Legislators:

RE: Support for Legislation that Designates a Unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area as part of the National Park System

I am writing to express my support for legislation that would designate a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as part of the National Park System. I believe this legislation has the potential for tremendous economic benefit to Talbot County and surrounding counties touching the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake National Recreation Area would utilize a collection of partnerships with states, localities, and private entities with the intent of highlighting the landscape and national significance of the Chesapeake Bay. National Park visitors make a significant contribution to the nation's economy and especially, to gateway communities such as Easton.

The Town of Easton has recently acquired land for a walkable, wooded park and is developing Easton Point Park as a key component of our recently adopted Port Street Small Area Plan. Providing appropriate park infrastructure is a key component to improve the physical fitness of any community. The educational and economic impact of visitors to a National Park System in Easton could be monumental in maintaining and sustaining recreational sites and opportunities in our community as units of the National Park System are among the top four priority destinations for international tourism.

Please act on the proposed legislation. The potential impact for this legislation will support the Town of Easton's continuing efforts to make Easton a great place to live, work and play.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Megan JM Cook
Mayor