



February 28, 2024

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: *Support for the Chesapeake National Recreation Area*
S.2620 & H.R. 5045

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Sarbanes:

The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) 14 member Board of Trustees is responsible for organizational leadership as Fort Monroe transfers from a historic, decommissioned coastal military post into a contributing Chesapeake Bay regional asset. After public consideration, the FMA Board of Trustees directed the FMA Executive Director to work with federal legislators, the Chesapeake Conservancy, and other parties to participate in the planning of the CNRA as it pertains to Fort Monroe.

To that end, the Fort Monroe Authority hosted a public meeting with Congressman Scott to learn more about the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA), as well as seek public input. Together we learned the CNRA will allow all stories of the watershed, its citizens, and its history to be shared with visitors from across the world by telling the history of the outstanding, remarkable, and nationally significant resources of the Bay watershed. We believe that Fort Monroe is one of the more unique sites where this history can be told.

The northern end of the Fort Monroe National Historic District property is included in the CNRA legislation as well as additional language that supports the creation of a "Gateway to the CNRA" at Old Point Comfort, present day Fort Monroe. The inclusion of this property into the CNRA is important to our efforts to improve awareness of Fort Monroe as well as its links to the earliest history of this land and the establishment of our country. The CNRA legislation increases our ability to succeed on a local, regional, national, and international level.



Thank you once again for introducing the Chesapeake National Recreation Area Act, S.2620 and H.R. 5045. We look forward to Congress establishing this new national recreation area in the Chesapeake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Glenn Oder', is written over a horizontal line.

G. Glenn Oder, FASLA
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Mark Warner
The Honorable Tim Kaine
The Honorable Bobby Scott