



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

July 14, 2023

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

The Honorable John Sarbanes
United States House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area Designation

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Sarbanes,

I write to you to express my support for your legislation to designate a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as part of the National Park System.

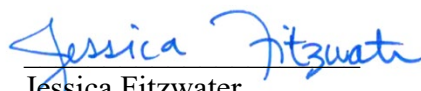
As County Executive of Frederick County, I value your efforts to elevate the Chesapeake's unique geographic, historic, and cultural importance, both to the State of Maryland and to the country. Frederick has long been known as a crossroads – geographically forged by the Monocacy River, historically important for its location during the Civil War, and culturally rich in its people beginning with the Piscataway and Tuscarora people and continuing today to attract people from all over the world.

Significantly, your legislation will leverage federal investment that will result in increased interest and activity to the area. While the region and State will benefit from that, it will also be particularly meaningful to those who live and make their living from the national treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay. I am delighted that your legislation aligns to the goals of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement, helping to ensure that this precious ecosystem remains healthy for all and for generations to come.

Finally, you have thoughtfully ensured robust and sustained public engagement in providing for the creation of an Advisory Commission through which the many and diverse stakeholders can provide input and feedback. While the CNRA will celebrate the diversity of cultures and people who have played a role in shaping the Bay, it will also continue to reflect the values and priorities of local communities.

Thank you for authoring this legislation. I am very pleased to support it.

Sincerely,


Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive