



200 West Main Street, Salisbury, Maryland 21801

June 16, 2023

Senator Chris Van Hollen
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen,

On behalf of the 100+ members of the Greater Salisbury Committee, I write to you today to express our full support for the proposal to create the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA).

In short, this is a brilliant idea. We thank you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives and in the United States Senate for bringing this forward.

The CNRA will elevate the Chesapeake Bay by bringing additional local and national recognition to the region and making substantial contributions to our regional economy. The environmentally conscious tourism that the CRNA would spark will go a long way to supporting local restaurants, outdoor recreation, and tourism based activities.

By building on the legacy of the National Park Service - preservation, conservation, and stewardship - the CNRA would protect the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and educate the next generation of stewards in the process. Data suggests that national park visitors make a significant contribution to the nation's economy and, especially, to gateway communities in and adjacent to these areas. In 2021, the National Park Service reported that visitors spent \$20.5 billion in local gateway regions while visiting national parks. The staggering number of jobs, and the billions in economic output that the National Park Service adds each year is something that the CNRA could build upon.

We realize that the CNRA concept is just getting off the ground, but we would be remiss if we didn't encourage that some designated location/historical site on the Eastern Shore of Maryland be an original member – if you will – of the CNRA.

Thank you for letting us offer our words of support for the proposed CNRA.

Sincerely,

Mike Dunn

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