



**HISTORIC
ANNAPOLIS**

Historic Annapolis, Inc.
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July 6, 2023

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate

The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives
Via Email

RE: Chesapeake National Recreation Area

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of the Historic Annapolis (HA), I write to thank you for your leadership and commitment to the creation of the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA), a new unit of the National Park System in the Chesapeake watershed.

Since 1952, HA has been an advocate for the built heritage of Annapolis—including views from and to the water. As the stewards of a dozen state-owned historic buildings, we have enjoyed a front row seat where the rivers of Annapolis meet the Chesapeake Bay and have been an active participant in Annapolis' important heritage tourism. HA's mission is to PRESERVE and PROTECT the historic places, objects, and stories of Maryland's capital city, and provide engaging experiences that CONNECT people to the area's diverse heritage.

HA supports the establishment of this new national recreation area, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that the Chesapeake is recognized for its natural and historic significance by inclusion in the National Park System. Celebration and stewardship of resources for the benefit of all are core tenants of our work and critical reasons to pass this legislation.

Having been involved in the CNRA working group alongside fellow advocates, we appreciate the lengths to which your staff have gone to keep interested parties and organizations like HA informed and updated. In that regard, we can attest to the thoughtfulness with which outreach has been undertaken to educate the public on the meaning of the proposed bill, to collect and consider public comment, and to allay valid concerns and misunderstandings of citizens.

We trust that as champions of this legislation, you will continue to solicit and weigh the public's concerns—including implications, traffic, oversight, etc.—while continuing to speak on the value and potential of this effort. We share the belief that the CNRA will allow all stories of the watershed, its citizens, and its history to be shared with visitors from across the world.

Thank you once again for leading this important initiative. We look forward to working with you on bill introduction and final passage to establish the CNRA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Theimer Brown".

Karen Theimer Brown
President and CEO

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