



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2013 Voice/Relay

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive  
cball@howardcountymd.gov

www.howardcountymd.gov  
FAX 410-313-3051

July 21, 2023

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

The Honorable Congressman John Sarbanes  
2370 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Support for the Chesapeake Bay National Recreation Area designation

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Sarbanes:

I am delighted to express Howard County's strong support for legislation that would designate a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as part of the National Park System. The proposed CNRA is the product of extensive stakeholder engagement across the region. It would foster the creation of new partnerships to advance conservation, highlight the historical and national significance of the Chesapeake Bay, and facilitate the delivery of more federal resources to this vital watershed region. This would be very beneficial to our county, state, and region. The CNRA would further celebrate the Bay's diverse cultural and economic history, conserve the Bay's environment, foster public access, and spur economic growth.

Howard County is in the heart of Maryland and our proximity to the Chesapeake Bay is part of our identity. Our community cherishes the Chesapeake Bay. Our government, non-profits, and residents strive to protect the Chesapeake Bay through numerous environmental programs. Although Howard County is not within the specific area designation, we would benefit from the important economic, recreational, and tourism generated from the Chesapeake Bay. As our country's largest estuary, the Bay deserves the distinction and protections that would come with the proposed Chesapeake Bay Recreation Area designation.

Thank you,

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive