



July 7, 2023

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: Chesapeake National Recreation Area

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of the James River Association, I am writing to thank you for your leadership to create the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA), a new unit of the National Park System. The James River Association is the chief advocate for the James River, a significant watershed in the Chesapeake Bay basin. We are actively working to restore the river's health and connect people to its natural resources and rich history through our programs. The establishment of a national recreation area will help advance our mission and we look forward to working with you to ensure the Chesapeake Bay is recognized for its natural and historic significance by inclusion in the National Park System.

Those of us who live and work in this region know the Chesapeake Bay is a natural wonder fully deserving of national park status. We strongly support the goals of the new recreation area to recognize the Chesapeake's national significance, conserve and interpret these resources, expand public access, enhance tourism and local economies, engage watershed communities, promote diversity and equity, improve water quality, and advance the conservation goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

We endorse the acquisition of land and land-based resources via willing donation, purchase from a willing seller, and/or exchange or transfer from another Federal Agency. And we support the requirements that nothing in the Act would impact or affect



commercial or recreational fishing or enlarge or diminish jurisdiction of each State, with respect to fish and wildlife management.

Establishing the CNRA will allow all stories of the watershed, its citizens, and its history to be shared with visitors from across the world. The creation of the CNRA will enhance public understanding of the Chesapeake at participating National Park Service sites and partner sites that tell stories of its outstanding, remarkable, and nationally significant resources.

Thank you once again for leading this important initiative. We look forward to working with you on bill introduction and final passage to establish this new national recreation area in the Chesapeake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Street".

William H. Street
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Mark Warner
The Honorable Tim Kaine
The Honorable Rob Wittman
The Honorable Jen Kiggans
The Honorable Bobby Scott
The Honorable Jennifer McClellan
The Honorable Bob Good
The Honorable Ben Cline
The Honorable Morgan Griffith