



# City of Cambridge

410 Academy Street, Cambridge, MD – P.O. Box 255

Phone: 410-228-4020 Fax: 410-228-4554

E-Mail [info@choosecambridge.com](mailto:info@choosecambridge.com)

July 26, 2023

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

## **Re: The Chesapeake National Recreation Area**

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the designation of the Chesapeake Bay as the Chesapeake National Recreational Area (CRNA). Its designation will bring national recognition to the importance of the Bay and provide resources to support its natural, cultural, historical, and recreational significance.

Establishing the Chesapeake National Recreational Area will attract a widespread awareness to the significance of the Bay. It will help to tell the stories of the nation's largest estuary and one of the world's largest environmental restoration efforts.

The National Park Service designation will provide an opportunity to help better conserve the Bay, deliver additional federal resources to the region, and generate more economic opportunities for those people whose livelihoods depend on the Bay.

The natural health of the Bay has been a continuing challenge for years, and having it be a CRNA will help the many organizations that have worked so hard to bring it back to its former beauty and health. It will help increase environmentally conscious tourism that supports those in the food, lodging, outdoor recreation, and travel business. It will build on the NPS legacy of preservation, conservation, and stewardship to protect the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and educate future generations of stewards in the process.

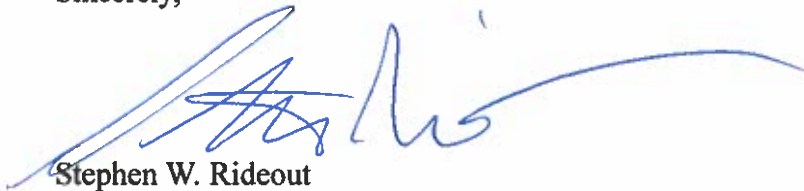
At a time when so many people in our larger close by cities need the opportunity to get away from their urban areas, the CNRA will help local rural communities such as Cambridge and Dorchester County attract them for recreational opportunities that they might not have had close to their homes. It will also help our rural communities to create spaces that eliminate transportation,

language, and mobility barriers and will help create a safe and welcoming natural environment for all to enjoy.

Especially in Cambridge and Dorchester County there are many untold stories of Indigenous people and free and enslaved peoples that need to be shared. While there has been a recent effort here in Cambridge to begin that journey, much more needs to be done to properly tell the whole story of the role that the Bay and all of its people played in the earliest days of the Maryland and Virginia Colonies as well as of this nation.

Thank you for considering this letter and my views on this important matter. I hope that this effort is successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen W. Rideout", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Stephen W. Rideout

Mayor