



June 29, 2023

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. 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

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Sarbanes:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,800 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth and recovery for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

I am writing to express my strong support for the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) legislation that you have been working diligently to introduce in Congress. As a member of United for a Chesapeake National Recreation Area, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce understands and appreciates the value of designating our Chesapeake Bay region as part of the National Park System. Maryland's Chesapeake Bay boasts a rich history, ecological significance, recreational benefits and valuable resources – all important to increasing public access and fostering economic growth.

A unified designation will provide an opportunity to deliver federal resources to the region, in turn spurring economic growth and prosperity. Chesapeake Bay is a critical gateway and the largest estuary in the nation. This designation will create a draw for visitors to the region, who will make substantial contributions to Maryland's economy. It will also support businesses, especially in lodging, outdoor recreation, travel and food industries. Additionally, the CNRA will create pathways to green careers, utilizing the partnerships between the National Park Service, state and local governments, nonprofits, and private stakeholders.

The CNRA will bring additional local, national and international recognition and will play an integral role as an economic generator. The Chamber recognizes the synergy between environmental stewardship and community engagement, which will enhance investment opportunities that will bring significant benefits to Maryland and its residents. By investing in

Chesapeake Bay, we can ensure Maryland stands poised to benefit from the jobs and wages created by this national designation.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary D. Kane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary D. Kane
President & CEO
Maryland Chamber of Commerce

