



MORGANTM
PATUXENT ENVIRONMENTAL AND
AQUATIC RESEARCH LABORATORY

Scott Knoche
Director
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July 5, 2023

Subject: Support for Chesapeake National Recreation Area

I am writing to express my strong support for a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as part of the National Park System. As the Director of the Morgan State Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory (MSU PEARL), and as a member of the CNRA Workgroup, I have had the privilege of providing modest support with respect to the development and planning of this initiative. It is with great enthusiasm that I offer my support for the CNRA.

The CNRA, championed by Senator Chris Van Hollen and Congressman John Sarbanes, promises to be a wonderful addition to the National Park System. Through broad partnerships with states, localities, and private entities, the CNRA aims to showcase the diverse landscape and national significance of the Chesapeake Bay. Importantly, it will also increase public access to the Bay and foster a culture of stewardship. Moreover, the CNRA will celebrate the stories and heritage of diverse groups, including Indigenous Peoples and free and enslaved Blacks, shedding light on the legacy and impacts of slavery. These considerations make the CNRA an inclusive and meaningful tribute to the region's history.

Further, given my disciplinary expertise in environmental economics, I have conducted extensive research on the economic benefits associated with recreational fishing and boating in the Chesapeake Bay and its connecting tributaries. I understand the tremendous value that the CNRA will bring to coastal communities, both in terms of enhancing equitable access to the Chesapeake Bay and generating economic opportunities. By providing a platform for sustainable tourism, the CNRA will attract visitors, boost local businesses, and support the livelihoods of individuals who depend on the Bay for their economic well-being.

In conclusion, the establishment of a unified CNRA as part of the National Park System is an important undertaking. This initiative will not only preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of the Chesapeake Bay but also provide a wide range of environmental and



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economic benefits. As an advocate for environmental conservation and equitable access, I wholeheartedly endorse the CNRA.

Thank you for your attention. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Knoche".

Scott Knoche
Director
Morgan State University PEARL