



POTOMAC
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NETWORK

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July 7, 2023

Senator Chris VanHollen
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Support for Senator VanHollen's Sponsorship of Legislation to Establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area

Dear Senator VanHollen,

I am writing to express our utmost support for your sponsorship of legislation to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area. As the President of the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, an organization dedicated to protecting and preserving the Potomac River and its tributaries, I commend your commitment to providing access to waterways and promoting recreation, as well as your efforts to safeguard the Potomac River, a crucial component of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

The Chesapeake Bay region is a national treasure, cherished for its natural beauty, ecological significance, and cultural heritage. However, the health and vitality of the Chesapeake Bay depend on the health of its tributaries, with the Potomac River being of particular importance. The Potomac River serves as a lifeline for the Chesapeake Bay, supplying vital nutrients and supporting diverse ecosystems that sustain a wide array of plant and animal species.

Your sponsorship of legislation to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area demonstrates your understanding of the paramount importance of protecting and preserving the Potomac River. By designating this area as a national recreation site, we can ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience the wonders of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay firsthand.

Access to waterways and outdoor recreational opportunities is essential for the well-being of our communities. It provides individuals and families with the chance to engage with nature, improve their physical and mental health, and develop a deep appreciation for our natural resources. The establishment of the Chesapeake National Recreation Area would



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create a safe and welcoming environment for people to explore and enjoy the recreational opportunities offered by the Potomac River and its surrounding waterways.

Moreover, your legislation aligns with the mission of the Potomac Riverkeeper Network, as it emphasizes the protection and preservation of the Potomac River. By highlighting the importance of this iconic river, you are not only safeguarding its ecological integrity but also contributing to the overall health and resilience of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. Your sponsorship serves as a testament to your dedication to environmental conservation and the well-being of your constituents.

Please be assured of my unwavering support for your efforts, and I encourage you to continue your important work in Congress. By advocating for the Chesapeake National Recreation Area, you are not only preserving our natural heritage but also leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

Thank you once again for your dedication to public service and your commitment to environmental conservation. If there is any way in which I can assist or contribute further to this cause, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am available at your convenience and eager to support your efforts.

With sincere appreciation,

Nancy Stoner

Nancy Stoner

President

Potomac Riverkeeper Network