



## PRESERVATION VIRGINIA

29 February 2024

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: Support for the Chesapeake National Recreation Area S.2620 & H.R. 5045*

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of Preservation Virginia, 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 in the Chesapeake watershed. Preservation Virginia is the nation's first statewide historic preservation organization. Through our 135 years, we have helped save almost 500 historic places across the Commonwealth. We understand how these places contribute to the cultural, economic and educational vitality of communities.

Through our collaborations with the National Park Service at Historic Jamestowne and the Captain John Chesapeake National Historic Trail, we have experienced the benefits of preserving historic places and providing public access. Our annual Most Endangered list highlights opportunities to preserve historic places. Included in last year's listing were the historic resources associated with the African American Waterman in the Chesapeake region. In previous years, we have championed the establishment of the Fort Monroe National Monument.

We strongly support the establishment of this new national recreation area, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that the Chesapeake is recognized for its natural and historic significance by inclusion in the National Park System.

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 Bay at participating National Park Service sites and partner sites to tell the story of the outstanding, remarkable, and nationally significant resources of the Bay watershed.

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.

PRESERVATION VIRGINIA

Thank you once again for introducing the Chesapeake National Recreation Area Act, S.2620 and H.R. 5045. We look forward to working with you to ensure final passage in the Congress to establish this new national recreation area in the Chesapeake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth S. Kostelny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Elizabeth S. Kostelny  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: The Honorable Mark Warner  
The Honorable Tim Kaine  
The Honorable Bobby Scott