



## RAPPAHANNOCK TRIBE OF VIRGINIA

5036 Indian Neck Rd.  
Indian Neck, VA 23148  
Phone: 804-769-0260  
Fax 804-769-9250

E-mail: [arichardson@rappahannocktribe.org](mailto:arichardson@rappahannocktribe.org)

G. Anne Richardson  
*Chief*

June 30, 2023

J. Mark Fortune  
*Assistant Chief*

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Faye Fortune  
*Secretary*

Barbara Williams  
*Tribal Council Chair*

The Honorable John Sarbanes  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2370 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Council Members  
*Teresa Custalow*  
*Col. John Fortune*  
*Kirk Richardson*  
*Vince Reynolds*  
*Reeva Tilley*

RE: *Chesapeake National Recreation Area*

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of the Rappahannock Tribe, 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. It is incredibly important for the hidden history of the Native American tribes who lived on the tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay to be shared and we believe the CNRA could play a key role in telling that history. 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.

Those of us who live and work in this region know that the Chesapeake Bay watershed is a natural wonder fully deserving of national park status. We strongly support the goals of the new recreation area to recognize the Chesapeake's national significance, conserve and interpret these resources, expand public access, enhance tourism and local economies, engage watershed communities, promote diversity and equity, improve water quality, and advance the conservation goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

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.

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.

Thank you once again for leading this important initiative. We look forward to working with you on bill introduction and final passage to establish this new national recreation area in the Chesapeake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. Anne Richardson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

G. Anne Richardson, Chief  
Rappahannock Tribe