

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

The Honorable John Sarbanes
US House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of the Annapolis Maryland Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, I am writing today to thank you for your vision and leadership in convening stakeholders and drafting legislation aimed at creating a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as a part of our National Park System.

As you know, the Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit conservation organization based in grassroots awareness and informed local activism and dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans in the interest of all people. Here in Maryland, this includes the national treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States and third largest in the world, covering more than four thousand square miles of rivers, creeks, and islands across three states and supporting diverse natural habitats, essential fisheries, and a stunning array of international migratory bird populations.

Creation of the CNRA in partnership with the National Park Service will mark a pivotal and historic moment in Chesapeake Bay conservation. The Surfrider Foundation commends and thanks you for your longstanding efforts to legislate this measure that promises among its many notable benefits the following:

- Creation of federal and inter-state partnerships that will ensure the natural ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay are monitored, cared for, and preserved for the enrichment and enjoyment of future generations in perpetuity.
- Intensified awareness and development of a reciprocal balance between the economic and recreational opportunities afforded by the Chesapeake Bay and the protection required for its sustained health into the future.
- Significant increase in Federal resources and protections supporting initiatives designed to improve the health and longevity of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Increased public access, understanding, appreciation, and therefore stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and its rich array of habitats, species, histories, and cultures.
- Increased local, national, and international awareness and appreciation of the diverse narrative histories of the Chesapeake Bay including those of the original indigenous peoples of the region; the histories of immigration, colonization, revolution, and democratic independence played out in the region; the important narratives of Black

slavery, emancipation, and Black leadership and culture intimate to the fabric of the region's history; the vibrant histories and cultures of Chesapeake watermen and women so unique and essential to our region and the nation as a whole.

Not least, the CNRA will garner recognition for the Chesapeake Bay and its extensive watershed regions as not merely "notable" and "significant" but as vital, essential, and worthy of protection. The Surfrider Foundation Annapolis Chapter commends you and the rest of the legislative coalition for your vision, tenacity, and commitment and for your willingness to work side by side with our Surfrider Foundation Ocean City Chapter in bringing this important legislation to fruition. This is the brave work of stewardship and we look forward to partnering with you and with the citizens of Maryland to safeguard the legacy of the Chesapeake Bay so that together we can hand this legacy on to future generations.

Sincerely yours,

Amy Adamo
Chair, Surfrider Annapolis
121 Smith Street
207-660-5544

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