

September 28, 2023

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
730 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Sarbanes,

On behalf of Trust for Public Land, I would like to applaud your leadership in introducing S. 2620 and H.R. 5045 to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as a unit of the National Park System.


Trust for Public Land is a national 501(c)(3) organization that works to create parks and protect land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Since our founding in 1972, we have worked to create new national parks and expand existing units, from large landscapes like Yosemite National Park to cultural and historical centerpieces like Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Site. We also helped to protect and expand numerous sites in the Chesapeake Bay region, including the George Washington Birthplace National Monument in Virginia and Piscataway Park in Maryland.

Trust for Public Land is proud to endorse S. 2620 and H.R. 5045 because we believe that the Chesapeake Bay is nationally significant and deserves this important recognition as a unit of the National Park System. We also believe that the CNRA will help to highlight and preserve the many historical and cultural contributions of Black and Indigenous peoples and communities in the Chesapeake Bay.

America's national parks must tell the full story of our nation. Our National Park System must stretch far beyond monuments to White "Founding Fathers"; the racially and culturally diverse stories told in our national parks must reach far deeper than the history of war, displacement, slavery and segregation. We must work to establish national parks and sites that place Black, Indigenous and other racially and ethnically diverse communities as equal "Founders" and that highlight self-determination, achievement, love and joy.

Thank you for your leadership to introduce, advance and pass this important legislation and we look forward to supporting your efforts to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area.

Sincerely,



Jocelyn Imani, Ph. D.
Director, Black History and Culture
Trust for Public Land