



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
Office of the President

July 25, 2023

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Congressman Sarbanes,

I write to enthusiastically endorse the legislation you are about to introduce that would designate a unified Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) as part of the National Park System. For those of us living and working on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay, we believe that it's a natural and economic resource that's almost without compare in this beautiful country.

As a proud 1890 Land Grant HBCU University on the land of the Nanticoke, those of us at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore understand the impact that the Chesapeake Bay has on the lives of millions of people. The Bay plays prominently in the history of legacy watermen, the abundant agricultural products in this region, the water quality of the Eastern Seaboard, the tourism and recreational opportunities on the Delmarva Peninsula, and for emerging aquaculture opportunities and green careers for our students everywhere.

At UMES, our students and scientists are researching the impact of climate change, of landowner issues, of agricultural sustenance and diversity, and of environmental justice for Native Americans and people of color. The Bay has an impact on each and every one of us.

As such we are grateful to you both and your fellow Congressional colleague sponsors for your leadership and advocacy. Given the many dynamics, legacy, and priceless value of the Chesapeake Bay region for our future the time is NOW to pass this most important legislation. The UMES community stands with your efforts and offer our support to testify. We also invite you and your staff to visit our campus and the UMES Paul S. Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center on Assateague Island to learn more about the agricultural, scientific, and public policy issues we're working on that support the creation of the CNRA.

We share your desire to have conversations around these issues and find ways to further preserve and maximize this rich resource.

Thank you for including the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in your discussions. We look forward to working with you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi M. Anderson
President
University of Maryland Eastern Shore