

FRIENDS *of* PEIRCE MILL

February 6, 2024

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

Dear Senator Van Hollen:

On behalf of the Friends of Peirce Mill (FOPM), I write in support of S. 2620, your bill to establish the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) and to permanently reauthorize the Chesapeake Gateways Network.

The Friends of Peirce Mill is an official philanthropic partner of the National Park Service in Rock Creek Park. We work with NPS and the wider community to preserve, restore, and interpret the last working gristmill in Washington, DC.

By permanently reauthorizing the Chesapeake Gateways Program and doubling the authorized funding level, your bill would strengthen FOPM's work to tell the full story of America, including the development of milling, the role of enslaved people in our region's development, and emancipation through the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862. This bill would also help us use the water-powered gristmill for environmental education, and to inspire the next generation of engineers and inventors.

The Friends of Peirce Mill appreciates your work to advance this critically important bill to protect and interpret the Chesapeake Watershed's outstanding natural, historic, and cultural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. If we may be of assistance, please contact me at angela@friendsofpeircemill.org or 718-208-3161.

Sincerely,



Angela Kramer
Executive Director, Friends of Peirce Mill

cc: The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mr. Matthew Frumin, Council Member (Ward 3), District of Columbia
Ms. Janeese Lewis George, Councilmember (Ward 4), District of Columbia
Joel Dunn, President and CEO, Chesapeake Conservancy
Jeanne Braha, Executive Director, Rock Creek Conservancy