

February 27, 2024

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

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

RE: *Support for the Chesapeake National Recreation Area
S.2620 & H.R. 5045*

Dear Senator Van Hollen and Representative Sarbanes:

On behalf of the Susquehannock Wildlife Society, Inc., 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. With our mission of protecting local wildlife in the Lower Susquehanna region, where the Chesapeake Bay begins, through research, education, rescue and conservation, we see the incredible potential for an expansion of partnerships to tell the stories of the Bay and its inhabitants, both human and wildlife alike. We believe there is immense value in connecting and expanding on protected places, promoting educational centers like our soon to be opening Wildlife Center in Harford County, and providing new places for the public to access our lands and waters under the celebrated National Park brand. We strongly support the establishment of this new National Recreation Area, including 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.

The Chesapeake watershed contains some true ecological jewels that the CNRA will no doubt help to highlight, advocate for, while connecting the public and most importantly, protecting. From the Maryland Darter and Chesapeake Logperch, both found nowhere else in the world, to the globally rare Bog Turtle, and all of the iconic Bay species in between, this is a place worth celebrating and providing the necessary resources to ensure it remains healthy for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you once again for introducing the Chesapeake National Recreation Area Act, S.2620 and H.R. 5045. We look forward to working with you to ensure final passage in the Congress to establish this new national recreation area in the Chesapeake.

Sincerely,
Scott McDaniel
Executive Director
Susquehannock Wildlife Society, Inc.

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