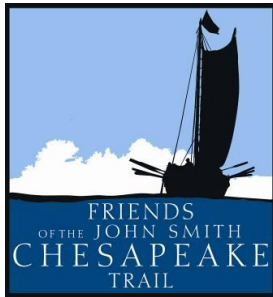


*A Letter to the United States Senate  
Committee on Appropriations  
Partners for a Chesapeake Bay Treasured Landscape Initiative*



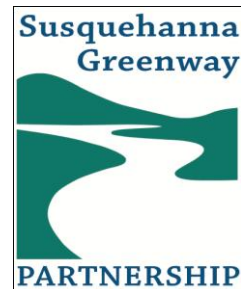
**CHESAPEAKE BAY  
FOUNDATION**  
*Saving a National Treasure*



**THE CONSERVATION FUND**  
*America's Partner in Conservation*



*George Washington's*  
**MOUNT VERNON**  
ESTATE & GARDENS



April 7, 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Alexander:

Our partnership writes to respectfully request an allocation in the FY 2011 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations bill of \$10 million for a pilot Chesapeake Bay Treasured Landscapes Fund for land conservation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

We, the undersigned organizations and agencies, collectively work for the interests of millions of citizens, the health of the Chesapeake, and effective governance. We have met on several occasions to discuss the conservation strategies outlined in President Obama's Executive Order (13508) to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. This collaboration resulted in our commitment to implement a robust Treasured Landscapes strategy. We firmly believe that a strong federal commitment to, and funding for, conserving the Chesapeake's Treasured Landscapes, enhancing public access and education, promoting citizen stewardship, and restoring critical fish and wildlife habitats are essential components of an effective strategy to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay.

We strongly support the Department of the Interior's recommendation to create a Chesapeake Bay Treasured Landscape Initiative to protect lands of ecological, cultural and historic significance.

The Fund, a potential public-private partnership, could provide matching grants to conserve lands from willing sellers to create a sustainable ecological and cultural legacy for the Bay and enhance economic development through heritage and eco-tourism. We encourage such a program to significantly leverage federal funding with private and other public funds to maximize the use of every public dollar invested.

The Chesapeake's water quality is inextricably linked to the land; the watershed demonstrates one of the largest land-to-water ratios of any enclosed coastal sea on earth. Intact forests, marshes, and sweeping shorelines along the Bay and its rivers have immense filtering capacities that are needed for clean water. Moreover, this Fund could help protect lands that benefit community economic development efforts to expand heritage and eco-tourism initiatives.

Therefore, we urge to you to include \$10 million for this vital program in the FY 2011 Interior Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

Thank you for your consideration and commitment to conserving our nation's natural and cultural resources.

Sincerely,



**John Griffin**  
*Secretary*  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources



**David J. O'Neill**  
*President*  
Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail



**John Quigley**  
*Acting Secretary*  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation  
& Natural Resources



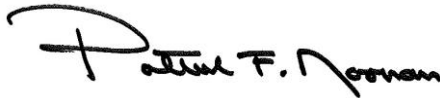
**Hedrick Belin**  
*President*  
Potomac Conservancy



**Collin O'Mara**  
*Secretary*  
Department of Natural Resources and  
Environmental Control



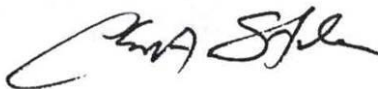
**Ann Swanson**  
*Executive Director*  
Chesapeake Bay Commission



**Patrick Noonan**  
*Chairman Emeritus*  
The Conservation Fund



**Roy Hoagland**  
*Vice President*  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation



**Charles A. Stek**  
*President & CEO*  
Environmental Stewardship Strategies



**James C. Rees**  
*President*  
Mount Vernon Ladies' Association



**John Reynolds**  
*Deputy Director (retired)*  
National Park Service



**Michael Nardolilli**  
*President*  
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust



**Scott Beatty**  
*Chairman of the Board*  
Friends of the Chesapeake Gateways



**Trish Carothers**  
*Development & Outreach Officer*  
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership



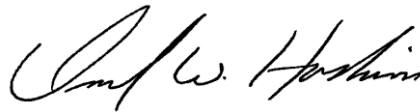
**Bill Street**  
*Executive Director*  
James River Association



**Chris G. Miller**  
*President*  
Piedmont Environmental Council of Virginia



**Wade Blackwood**  
*Executive Director*  
American Canoe Association



**Dave Hoskins**  
*Executive Director*  
Izaak Walton League of America



**The Honorable Mary Ann Lisanti**  
*Executive Director*  
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway &  
Harford County Council Councilwoman



**Deanna Beacham**



**EB James**  
*Executive Director*  
Nanticoke Watershed Alliance



**Rob Etgen**  
*Executive Director*  
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy



**Auriel A. Fenwick**  
*Chairwoman*  
Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs



**Don Welsh**  
*President & CEO*  
Pennsylvania Environmental Council