

Fiscal Year 2015
Rivers of the Chesapeake Land
and Water Conservation
Fund Collaborative Proposal
Letters of Support

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 30, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

We are writing in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). President Obama declared the Chesapeake Bay a “National Treasure” by Executive Order 13508 making the Chesapeake Bay and tributaries an especially worthy selection as one of the collaborative conservation focal areas of the LWCF in the FY15 President’s budget.

As the U.S. Senators representing the four states encompassing the proposal area, we commend the exceptional work being done by a variety of federal agencies within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to restore and protect this extraordinary natural resource. For nearly 30 years, federal agencies, tribes, six states, local governments and scores of land trusts and river and watershed protection organizations across the Chesapeake have collaborated in an effort to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. However, there is still much to be done to restore water quality, revive and sustain natural landscapes, protect cultural resources and fill severe gaps in water access and outdoor recreation. The need to take effective, collaborative action on a landscape scale is recognized by members of Congress and the agencies, themselves.

Executive Order #13508: Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed report calls for actions that include protecting an additional 2 million acres of land; adding 300 public access sites; restoring large areas of wetlands and riparian forests; restoring crabs, oysters, threatened and endangered species, black ducks and other migratory birds in decline and other wildlife species; and achieving major water pollution reductions, all by 2025. The *Executive Order Strategy* also explicitly calls for increasing LWCF allocation for Chesapeake watershed landscapes to advance these goals. The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* LWCF proposal would provide critical resources needed to achieve these much needed actions.

The five focus areas in this proposal are linked by the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and multiple America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) projects including the John Smith Watertrail, Chesapeake Gateways, and the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area. Conservation priorities are reflected in management plans developed for wildlife refuges,

public access to outdoor recreation, military base buffers, and state and non-governmental organization projects.

Funding the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal in the FY15 budget would result in collaborative conservation actions to protect over 8,000 acres, add new public access site locations, and conserve important wetlands, riparian forests, American Indian sites, wildlife habitat, and scenic and historic views. Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would allow Chesapeake conservation partners to make substantial strides toward shared goals, and allow federal agencies to accomplish far more in partnership with others than they could alone and would be a step toward fulfilling some of the commitments outlined in the *Executive Order Strategy*.

We urge you to include *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative in the FY15 budget. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

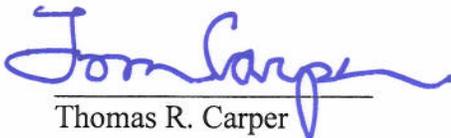
Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



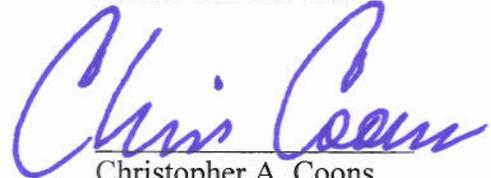
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



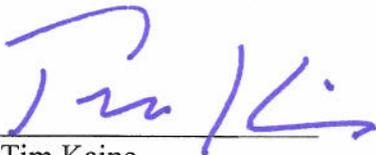
Robert P. Casey Jr.
United States Senator



Mark Warner
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 25, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

We are writing in strong support of including the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* as part of the administration's collaborative landscape conservation initiative under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for fiscal year 2015. As you know, President Obama declared the Chesapeake Bay a "National Treasure" by Executive Order 13508 making the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries an especially worthy selection as one of the collaborative conservation focal areas.

As Members of Congress representing the four states encompassing the proposal area, we commend the exceptional work being done by a variety of federal agencies within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to restore and protect this extraordinary natural resource. For nearly 30 years, federal agencies, tribes, six states, local governments and scores of land trusts and river and watershed protection organizations across the Chesapeake have collaborated in an effort to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. While great progress has been achieved, there is still much to be done to restore water quality, revive and sustain natural landscapes, protect cultural resources and improve water access and outdoor recreation opportunities. The strong partnerships developed over many years in the Chesapeake region are now primed and ready to collectively leverage their expertise and resources to protect high value conservation targets at a landscape scale.

Executive Order #13508: Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed report calls for actions that include protecting an additional two million acres of land; adding 300 public access sites; restoring large areas of wetlands and riparian forests; restoring crabs, oysters, establishing protected habitat for threatened and endangered species, black ducks and other migratory birds and other wildlife species that are in decline; and improving water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment loads, all by 2025. The *Executive Order Strategy* also explicitly calls for increasing LWCF allocation for Chesapeake watershed landscapes to advance these goals. The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* LWCF proposal would provide critical resources needed to achieve these much needed actions.

The five focus areas in this proposal are linked by the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and multiple America's Great Outdoors (AGO) projects including the Chesapeake Gateways, and the Susquehanna Gateway National Heritage Area. Conservation

priorities are reflected in management plans developed for wildlife refuges, national parks, public access to outdoor recreation, military base buffers, and state and non-governmental organization projects.

Funding the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget would result in collaborative conservation actions to protect more than 8,000 acres, add new public access site locations, and conserve important wetlands, riparian forests, American Indian sites, wildlife habitat, and scenic and historic views. Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would allow Chesapeake conservation partners to make substantial strides toward shared goals, and allow federal agencies to accomplish far more in partnership with others than they could alone and would be a step toward fulfilling some of the commitments outlined in the *Executive Order Strategy*.

We urge you to include *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative in the FY 2015 budget. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,


Chris Van Hollen


Paul Tonko


James P. Moran


John P. Sarbanes


Eleanor Holmes Norton


Elijah E. Cummings


C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger


Gerald E. Connolly


Matthew A. Cartwright


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


John K. Delaney


Steny H. Hoyer


John C. Carney, Jr.


Robert J. Wittman


Scott E. Rigell

**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

August 20, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

I am writing to convey support for the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal, with lead funding provided by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). I understand that to be considered for FY15 federal funding, applications must compete against more than a dozen other landscapes across the country that have been selected to submit a proposal. I sincerely urge you to select the Chesapeake application.

Land conservation has been a bright spot in our collective Bay restoration efforts. One of the specific goals of the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement was to permanently protect twenty percent of the land area of the watershed in the signatory jurisdictions by 2010. This goal was met by mid-2009, primarily through investments made by state and local governments and non-profits. This success serves as an excellent example of the effectiveness of our regional collaboration. We are also working to incorporate a strong land conservation goal in the next iteration of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed agreement being considered by the jurisdictions and federal agencies.

Since 2000, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has utilized over \$315 million to conserve 76,000 acres to achieve our statewide outdoor public recreation, ecological preservation and water quality goals. This includes an investment of over \$44 million to preserve approximately 43,000 acres in the Middle Potomac and Blackwater/Nanticoke River proposed focus areas. Both areas score in the highest tier in terms of ecology and outdoor recreation. Even in these tough financial times, my administration has made sure that funding is secured annually through the state's Program Open Space for land conservation and public access. We hope federal LWCF dollars will be invested to leverage our commitment to conservation.

There are many reasons to select the Chesapeake. President Obama's Chesapeake Executive Order #13508 recognized the Bay as a national treasure and the *America's Great Outdoors* initiative listed the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and Harriet Tubman as priority projects. In addition, the Chesapeake Bay region is subject to the largest total maximum daily load (TMDL) in

The Honorable Sally Jewell
The Honorable Tom Vilsack
August 20, 2013
Page Two

this nation's history. We are focused on reducing nutrient and sediment pollution and firmly believe that large-scale conservation is vital to restoring the health of the Bay and our rivers. Preserving working farms and forests, protecting the watershed's wildlife, character and history, and ensuring public access are critical components of success.

We understand that the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service submitted a proposal to the Department of the Interior to protect 17,000 additional acres in the watershed. We have worked closely with the federal agencies and national and local land trust partners to identify these priority areas and support this proposal. We hope that the Administration's FY15 budget will enable our region to accomplish our shared goals by choosing the Chesapeake as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area.

We are extremely grateful for your consideration of our request. Please be assured that the investment will be highly leveraged by state and local investments in land conservation, habitat creation, recreation and tourism development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Vilsack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Governor

THOMAS V. MIKE MILLER, JR.
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
27th Legislative District



The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

Annapolis Address
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991
410-841-3700 · 301-858-3700
800-492-7122 Ext. 3700

District Addresses
Prince George's County
P. O. Box 219
8808 Old Branch Avenue
Clinton, Maryland 20735
301-868-6931
Calvert County
P. O. Box 364
Dunkirk, Maryland 20754
410-257-4400

July 29, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

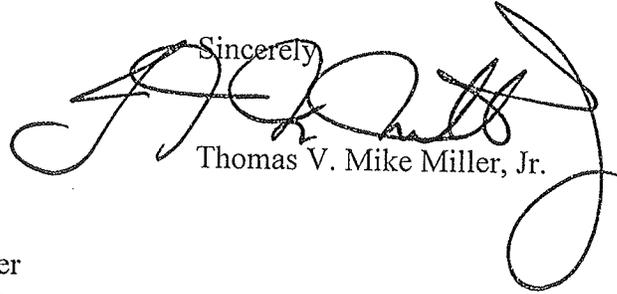
As the President of the Maryland State Senate for the last 26 years, I have worked extremely hard with my colleagues to preserve and protect our environment and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Maryland has used State funds to preserve over 400,000 acres of open space, has enacted numerous fees and dedicated revenues to fund improvements to wastewater treatment systems, septic systems, and stormwater management. In addition to these extraordinary efforts, Maryland has also set goals for nutrient reduction in the Bay that are years ahead of other states in the Chesapeake watershed.

I am writing to you today to offer my strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal, which seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet our shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake is a well recognized national and historic treasure is well deserving of designation as a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Maryland has a long history as a conservation leader in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and we are requesting this new partnership with the federal government to leverage our commitment to conservation and help protect larger landscapes.

Specifically, the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal highlights five focal areas, three of which are located, at least in part, in the State of Maryland – the Potomac, the Nanticoke, and the lower Susquehanna. Growing up and representing southern Maryland, I am particularly aware of the value of the Potomac River landscape and that portion of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, which contains valuable habitat, historic areas, viewsheds and recreational resources for our citizens.

Maryland leaders and citizens would be very grateful if you would include the Chesapeake in your future conservation plans. Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter.

Sincerely

Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

Thomas V. Mike Miller
President of the Senate

cc: The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Steny Hoyer



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

RICHMOND

WILLIAM J. HOWELL
SPEAKER

STATE CAPITOL
POST OFFICE BOX 406
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23218

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

July 29, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

As a member of the Virginia General Assembly, I am writing in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal, which seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Governor McDonnell has a very ambitious land conservation agenda of protecting 400,000 acres across the Commonwealth. Since 2010, we have conserved 162,853 acres toward that goal, but there are still important historic and natural areas in need of protection. Federal funding would leverage the Commonwealth's ongoing commitment to land conservation and help us protect larger landscapes.

The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal highlights five focal areas, three of which are located, at least in part, in the Commonwealth of Virginia – the middle Potomac, the Rappahannock and the James/York/Mouth of the Bay. The Rappahannock River, in particular, has parcels in immediate need of protection. Near-term development plans threaten the integrity of Fones Cliffs, a landscape evocative of the 1600's, a place of cultural importance to the 300 members of the Rappahannock tribe and an unspoiled wooded river corridor that is home to the largest concentration of bald eagles on the East Coast. The James and Potomac Rivers also have tremendous conservation potential for their critical historic and ecological resources. The focal areas put forward in this proposal will protect the Chesapeake region for future generations.

Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter and commitment to protecting the landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay region.

Sincerely,

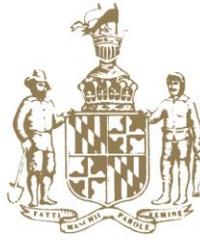
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W - J Howell".

William J. Howell
Speaker, Virginia House of Delegates

cc: VA Congressional Delegation

MICHAEL E. BUSCH
SPEAKER

30th Legislative District
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY



State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991
800-492-7122 Ext 3800
410-841-3800 · 301-858-3800

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

August 22, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

As Speaker of the House of the Maryland General Assembly, I am writing in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal, which seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Maryland has a long history as a conservation leader in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our state-funded land conservation programs have protected over 400,000 acres in Maryland. Nevertheless, there are still important historic and natural areas in need of protection. Federal funding would leverage our commitment to conservation and help protect larger landscapes.

The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal highlights five focal areas, three of which are located, at least in part, in the State of Maryland – the Potomac, the Nanticoke, and the lower Susquehanna. We would be very grateful if you would include the Chesapeake in your future conservation plans. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Busch".

Michael E. Busch
Speaker

cc: The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Steny Hoyer

August 7, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

I write to support the "Rivers of the Chesapeake" collaborative proposal as a specific implementation action in support of the America's Great Outdoors program and President Obama's Executive Order related to the Chesapeake.

I live in Virginia. I am retired from a career in the National Park Service, and familiar with such collaboratives in other parts of the country, and their great value. I am active in Chesapeake watershed activities, including being the Commonwealth of Virginia Citizen Representative on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, founding board member of the Chesapeake Conservancy and Chair, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council.

In 2004, in response to a request from the Congress, the National Park Service completed the Final Chesapeake Bay Special Resource Study and Environmental Impact Statement. In January 2010, Assistant Secretary Fish, Wildlife and Parks Thomas L. Strickland transmitted the study to the Congress, and in his letter said:

"The Resource Study/EIS found that the Bay is an outstanding example of a unique set of ecological and cultural elements with longstanding and expansive influence on the history and development of the United States. The Bay is unquestionably nationally significant...it can only truly be understood as an interconnected and interdependent mosaic where each part contributes to the overwhelming significance of the whole."

For several decades the United States and the Bay states have worked very hard to improve the water quality of the Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Commission has been an unusually effective construct to work with states in these efforts.

In the last several years, the National Park Service and its national historic trails related to the Bay, the connector trails to the John Smith Trail, and the Chesapeake Gateways program have increased both government and citizen awareness of the myriad significant qualities of the bay and its watershed.

Over the last 20 years or so, states and the federal government, particularly the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Defense, have made important strides forward to protect

landscapes important to the Bay and its history and ecology. Many private land trusts, NGO's and local jurisdictions have also contributed.

What remains?

A true watershed-wide collaborative, the purpose of which is to achieve protection of the ecological, cultural and recreational values of this great landscape, providing a nearly incredulous array of recreation opportunity and supporting good business and farming practices, is what remains to be done.

This undertaking is critical to the long term protection of the Bay and the resources of the watershed on which it depends. Through judicious use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund combined with community assistance programs, the coordinated activities of the various federal agencies and their state, local and private counterparts and a phalanx of affected citizens one of America's most iconic land and waterscapes can be protected and used to the benefit of the nation as a whole and its peoples. It is a task equal in importance to that of saving the Everglades and the values of the other existing large landscape collaboratives.

My experience in this watershed has shown me that the desire and the ability are there.

I strongly advocate the listing and funding of the Chesapeake as a LWCF Collaborative.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,



John J. Reynolds
5059 Brook View Road
Crozet, VA 22932

cc: Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Dennis Reidenbach, Regional Director, Northeast Region, NPS
Steve Whitesell, Regional Director, National Capital Region, NPS
✓ Jonathan Doherty, Acting Superintendent, Chesapeake Bay Office, NPS



CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

Policy for the Bay • www.chesbay.us

May 24, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We write to support the creation of a “Chesapeake Great Rivers Landscape Collaborative,” with lead funding provided by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

The Chesapeake Bay region, and the states that comprise the watershed, have demonstrated the ability to collaborate in order to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. The overwhelming success of the Chesapeake Bay Program, which achieved its initial land conservation goal of protecting 20 percent of the land in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia by 2010, serves as a prime example of regional actors working in partnership to accomplish a significant goal.

In addition, the Administration’s America’s Great Outdoors initiative listed the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a priority project in both Maryland and Virginia. Along with the President’s Chesapeake Executive Order #13508, the Bay has received due recognition as a national treasure. There is currently great interest among citizen groups, non-profits, businesses and government actors on all levels to protect our Chesapeake landscapes.

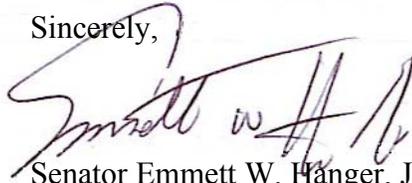
While the Administration’s FY13 budget request does not include LWCF funding for the Chesapeake region, it does provide funding for “Collaborative Landscape Planning,” which uses LWCF dollars from multiple agencies to more strategically protect contiguous landscapes and meet shared conservation goals. We firmly believe that large-scale conservation of our region’s landscapes is vital to restoring the health of the Bay and our rivers, preserving working farms and forests, protecting the watershed’s character and history, and to ensuring a bright future for watershed States and generations of residents to come.

We believe that the region has clearly demonstrated its ability to collaborate effectively in order to achieve large scale and shared goals, highlighted by the success of the Chesapeake Bay Program. National attention on the Chesapeake has never been greater thanks to the success of the America’s Great Outdoors initiative and the continued implementation of the John Smith Trail, the nation’s first water-based historic trail. Key federal agencies – the National Park

Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and NOAA – already have cooperative programs here. We believe these successful relationships, when joined by the Chesapeake Conservancy and our many other state and private partners, will provide the base for creating a Chesapeake LWCF Collaborative. As a result, we respectfully request your support to ensure that the Chesapeake region be listed as an LWCF Collaborative focal area.

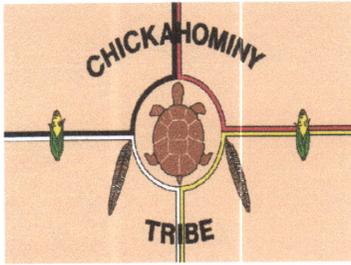
We greatly appreciate your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr. (Va.)
Chairman

cc: Chesapeake Bay Commission members
Will Shafroth, Counselor to the Secretary
Rhea Suh, Assistant Secretary, Department of Interior
John Maounis, Superintendent, National Park Service



Chickahominy Tribe

8200 Lott Cary Road, Providence Forge, Virginia 23140
Ph: (804) 829-2027 Fax: (804) 829-2222

Tribal Council

August 20, 2013

Stephen Adkins,
Chief

Wayne Adkins,
1st Asst. Chief

Reggie Stewart
2nd Asst. Chief

Martha Adkins,
Secretary

Rhonda Canaday,
Treasurer

Adam Adkins,

Ralph Adkins

Powhatan Owen

Jessica Stewart

Ross Stewart

Donovan Wynn

Keith Wynn

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, I write in strong support of the “Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative” conservation proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals.

The Chickahominy originally lived in permanent villages along the Virginia River that still bears our name. While the Treaty of 1646 displaced the Chickahominy people from this area, the Chickahominy families began a gradual migration to the area called the Chickahominy Ridge, where we now reside, only a few miles from one of our 1607 village sites. The Chickahominy Tribe, formally recognized by the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1983, is active in advancing a vision of life in harmony with creation and in conserving resources for future generations.

The many rivers that feed our nation’s largest tidal estuary provide an innovative framework to achieve the President’s conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by Executive Order 13508 and the *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*. The “Rivers of the Chesapeake” proposal for focusing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would provide critical resources to achieve these goals. The five focus areas in this proposal are linked by the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail—in which we, the citizens of Chickahominy Indian Tribe, have been engaged for years—but also include multiple parks and wildlife refuges and innumerable natural and cultural resources. This proposal would make very

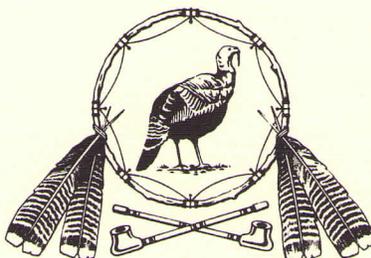
substantial contributions to permanently protecting lands and resources of great significance to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe and other Virginia Indians.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. We urge you to work to include the "Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative" in the President's fiscal year 2015 budget. As Chief of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, I thank you for your time, your consideration of this matter, and your commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen R. Adkins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Stephen R. Adkins



LENAPE INDIAN TRIBE OF DELAWARE

August 16, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, a member of the Confederation of Sovereign Nanticoke-Lenape Tribes of the Delaware Bay, the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes and the National Congress of the American Indian, I write to express my strong support of including the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* as part of the administration's collaborative landscape conservation initiative under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for fiscal year 2015.

American Indian heritage in the Chesapeake watershed spans many thousands of years. Our Nation respects the environment and endeavors to show that respect in the way we live. We hope that this proposal to protect historic aboriginal lands in the Chesapeake watershed, especially those along the great rivers, will provide us with an opportunity to demonstrate our relationship with these lands and to share our values about the environment with the American public.

I commend the exceptional work being done by a variety of federal agencies within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to restore and protect this extraordinary natural resource. While enormous progress has been achieved, there is still much to be done to restore water quality, revive and sustain natural landscapes, protect cultural resources and improve water access and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Executive Order #13508: Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed report calls for actions that include protecting an additional two million acres of land; adding 300 public access sites; restoring large areas of wetlands and riparian forests; restoring crabs, oysters, establishing protected habitat for threatened and endangered species, black ducks and other migratory birds and other wildlife species that are in decline; improving water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment loads. The *Executive Order Strategy* also explicitly calls for increasing LWCF allocations for Chesapeake

The Honorable Sally Jewell and Tom Vilsack
Page 2

watershed landscapes to advance these goals. The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* LWCF proposal would provide critical resources needed to achieve these much needed goals.

Funding the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget would result in collaborative conservation actions to protect more than 8,000 acres, add new public access site locations and conserve important wetlands, riparian forests, American Indian sites, wildlife habitat and scenic and historic views.

I urge you to include *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative in the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Coker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

Dennis J. Coker
Principal Chief
Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware

STATE OF MARYLAND
Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor



E. Keith Colston
Assistant Director

Commissioners

Chair
Thomas W. Windsor II

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Virginia Busby

Patricia Ward Carson

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Robert F. Killen

Guy Wells

Leanora E. Winters

August 21, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA), I write in strong support of the "Rivers of the Chesapeake" collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a LWCF conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

The MCIA and the indigenous people of Maryland have a vested interest in the health and enjoyment and, therefore, conservation of the rivers and lands within the Chesapeake watershed. As the original resource stewards and river keepers, we cherish the watersheds such as the Nanticoke, the Potomac and the many others that still bear our names. We cherish the life and culture related to them. From our perspective, the treatment of these watersheds within the context of large landscape conservation of the Chesapeake watershed is essential to ensuring that our children and all the children of the Chesapeake for generations to come may thrive and enjoy these resources of our homeland. The tribes of Maryland, indigenous organizations and the MCIA are working on their own and with local, state and federal agencies and conservation organizations to support the conservation of this large indigenous landscape.

Our many rivers that feed this nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by

Page Two
MCIA Rivers of the Chesapeake
Support Letter
August 21, 2013

the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report. The "Rivers of the Chesapeake" proposal for focusing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would provide critical resources to achieve these goals. Conservation along the focal areas highlighted in the proposal will help to conserve lands of natural and cultural significance to the tribes and decedent communities in Maryland

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural and cultural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,



Thomas W. Windsor, II
Chairman
Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs

cc: The Honorable Martin O'Malley
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Elijah Cummings
The Honorable John Delaney
The Honorable Donna Edwards
The Honorable Andy Harris
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable John Sarbanes
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable Michael Busch
The Honorable Mike Miller
Joseph Gill, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources



August 5, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Maryland Indian Tourism Association, I write in strong support of the “Rivers of the Chesapeake” collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a LWCF conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Our many rivers that feed this nation’s largest tidal estuary, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Maryland Indian Heritage Trail, provide an innovative framework to achieve the President’s conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration’s *America’s Great Outdoors* report. The “Rivers of the Chesapeake” proposal for focusing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would provide critical resources to achieve these goals. Conservation along the focal areas highlighted in the proposal will help to conserve lands of natural and cultural significance to the tribes and decedent communities in Maryland.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural and cultural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed’s most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter and commitment to protecting our nation’s treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

Rico Newman

Rico Newman
Chairman

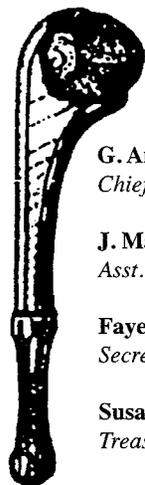
CC: The Honorable Martin O’Malley
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
The Honorable Ben Cardin
The Honorable Elijah Cummings
The Honorable John Delaney
The Honorable Donna Edwards



MARYLAND INDIAN TOURISM ASSOCIATION

It's in the Land.

The Honorable Andy Harris
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
The Honorable John Sarbanes
The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
The Honorable Michael Busch
The Honorable Mike Miller
Joseph Gill, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources



RAPPAHANNOCK TRIBE, INC.

Founded Before 1570

THE POWHATAN CONFEDERATION
(POWHATAN WIDOKODADIWIN)

Tribal Office

5036 Indian Neck, Virginia 23148

(804) 769-0260 or 1242

Fax (804) 769-9250

G. Anne Richardson
Chief

J. Mark Fortune
Asst. Chief

Faye Fortune
Secretary

Susan Johnson
Treasurer

August 14, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Rappahannock Tribe, I write in strong support of the "Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative" conservation proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Rappahannock people have occupied the lands on the Rappahannock River for 11,000 years and it continues to be a resourceful staple for our physical and spiritual sustenance.

Our many rivers that feed this nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report. The "Rivers of the Chesapeake" proposal for focusing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would provide critical resources to achieve these goals. Conservation along the five focal areas highlighted in the proposal would make very substantial contributions to permanently protecting lands and resources of great significance to the Rappahannock Indian Tribe and other Virginia Indians.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. We urge you to work to include the "Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative" in the

President's fiscal year 2015 budget. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's most treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Anne Richardson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

G. Anne Richardson, Chief
Rappahannock Tribe

CC: Doug Domenech, Secretary
Virginia Department of Natural Resources
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219



ACCOKEEK
FOUNDATION
at Piscataway Park

August 20, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of Accokeek Foundation, I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and is highly worthy as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area in the FY15 budget.

Working with Mount Vernon, the National Park Service, and state and local agencies, the Accokeek Foundation has conserved some 5,000 acres in the Middle Potomac River watershed. Our most recent success was the private purchase of a 65-acre property in Charles County, Maryland, which provides critical screening and protects the scenic landscape values for which Piscataway Park was created. We remain committed to the conservation of large landscapes in our organization's jurisdiction in the Chesapeake watershed, especially in Charles and Prince George's Counties in Maryland.

The many rivers that support our nation's largest tidal estuary, provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay, a national natural and economic asset, is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to support the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your commitment to protecting our nation's vital landscapes.

Sincerely,


Lisa Hayes
President

cc: Senator Barbara Mikulski
Senator Benjamin Cardin
Congressman Steny Hoyer

Senator Thomas V. "Mike" Miller
Joel Dunn, Chesapeake Conservancy

CAPITAL REGION
LAND CONSERVANCY 

August 13, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Capital Region Land Conservancy (CRLC), I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

The CRLC has conserved over 5,500 acres in the James River and York River watersheds combined, including forests, wetlands, streambank and riverfront, cropland, and scenic viewsheds. We remain committed to the conservation of large landscapes in our organization's service area within the larger Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,



Tara Quinn,
Executive Director

Chesapeake Conservancy

716 Giddings Ave
Suite 42
Annapolis, MD
21401

ph: 443-321-3610

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Strategies

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Beveridge & Diamond, P.C.

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Secretary

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Nicholas H. Dilks
Treasurer

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Chickahominy Tribe

Donald R. Baugh
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

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Gilbert M. Grosvenor
National Geographic Society

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Intel Corporation

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Virginia Living Museum

Ann W. Loomis
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H. Turney McKnight
Sumner T. McKnight Foundation

Patrick F. Noonan
The Conservation Fund

Blaine T. Phillips, Jr.
The Conservation Fund

William H. Street
James River Association

Douglas P. Wheeler
Hogan Lovells

H.W. (Skip) Wieder, Jr.
Susquehanna River Heartland
Coalition

HONORARY DIRECTORS

U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes
Maryland, Retired

U.S. Senator John Warner
Virginia, Retired

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joel Dunn

August 22, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Conservancy, I am writing in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal, which seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

The Chesapeake Conservancy works to engage citizens, government agencies, elected officials and nonprofits in the conservation of large landscapes in the Chesapeake for multiple, long term public benefits. We strongly believe the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal will have a major impact on restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The rivers of the Chesapeake and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative, collaborative framework to achieve the President's conservation and public access goals for the region, as defined by the Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

No other region in America can match the intensity or proven success of the multi-state collaborative efforts demonstrated here since the historic 1983 Chesapeake Bay agreement, when signatory states, EPA and the District of Columbia agreed to restore the Bay. In 2000, the initial water quality focus of Bay restoration efforts was expanded to include the conservation of the watersheds natural areas, which has been a bright spot for the Chesapeake Bay program. By 2010 federal, State and local governments and private efforts protected 20% of the watershed's land area, achieving a major program goal. Nevertheless, we need your support to achieve the Executive Order Strategy goal of conserving an additional 2 million acres and providing 300 new public access sites by 2025.

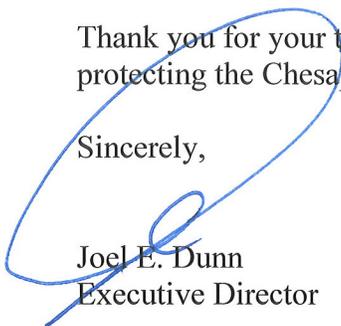
The Chesapeake Conservancy is a partnership driven organization and has cooperative agreements with the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Chesapeake. Some of our recent initiatives have

included supporting the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument and Fort Monroe National Monument, providing over \$1 million in private funding for land acquisitions along the Nanticoke River portion of the John Smith Trail and Nanticoke Unit of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, and funding several new public access sites along the James, Rappahannock, Potomac, Susquehanna and Nanticoke Rivers. Each of these falls within one of the proposed focus areas.

As the lead private partner on the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal, we are confident that many top level elected officials and community leaders share our intense desire to see the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture choose the Chesapeake as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area and to act upon our highest priority conservation needs.

Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Sincerely,



Joel E. Dunn
Executive Director

cc: Charles Stek, Chairman, Chesapeake Conservancy
Patrick Noonan, Trustee, Chesapeake Conservancy



Essex County Countryside Alliance

Officers: Peter C. Bance, *President* • Robert W. Baylor, Jr., *Vice President*
Tripp Taliaferro, *Treasurer* • Robert J. Allen, *Secretary*

Directors: Hylah H. Boyd • George Walker Box • Betty Jo L. Butler • Margaret H. Davis •
Suzanne Derieux • Frances H. Ellis • Charlotte Frischkorn • Muscoe Garnett, III •
Mac Garrett • James H. Hundley • Phillip Sasser Jr. • David Taliaferro • Hill B. Wellford

August 22nd, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing on behalf of the Essex County Countryside Alliance in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal, which seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The ECCA was formed in 2007 as a non profit 501(c)(3) organization to promote and protect the rural character of Essex County preserving farms, forests, natural and historic resources for the benefit of future generations. The Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Our many rivers that feed this nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report. The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal for focusing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would provide critical resources to achieve these goals and help us protect larger landscapes.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural and cultural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Bance



Friends of Blackwater **National Wildlife Refuge, Inc.**

a non profit 501 (c) (3) organization

P. O. Box 1231

Cambridge, MD 21613

Phone: 410-901-6125

www.friendsofblackwater.org

August 19, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

The Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge has recently conserved 825 acres in the Nanticoke River watershed. The Refuge remains committed to the conservation of large landscapes in its organization's jurisdiction in the Chesapeake watershed.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin F. O'Connor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Martin F. O'Connor, President
Friends of Blackwater NWR



Friends of the Rappahannock

Advocacy • Restoration • Education

Headquarters

3219 Fall Hill Ave. Fredericksburg, VA 22401 • 540-373-3448

Tidal Office

512 N. Church Ln. Office B, Tappahannock, VA 22560 • 804-443-3448

August 16, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of Friends of the Rappahannock, I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a LWCF conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Friends of the Rappahannock has conserved nearly 5,000 acres in the Rappahannock River watershed. We remain committed to the conservation of large landscapes in our organization's jurisdiction in the Chesapeake watershed.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

John Tippett
Executive Director , Friends of the Rappahannock



THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

August 19, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Izaak Walton League of America, I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) focal area in the fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget.

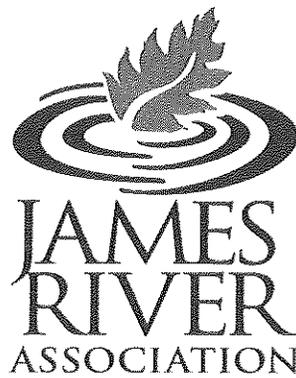
The Izaak Walton League has restored more than 6 miles of stream banks in the Susquehanna River and Potomac River watersheds and our volunteers regularly monitor the water quality of hundreds of streams throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We are committed to the conservation of large landscapes throughout the Chesapeake region.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and by the Administration's America's Great Outdoors report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and worthy of investment through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will help meet the most urgent conservation needs throughout the watershed. Thank you for your time and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

Scott Kovarovics
Executive Director



August 15, 2013

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I write to you on behalf of the James River Association, the oldest and largest river organization in Virginia, to convey our support for the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and is highly worthy as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area in the FY15 budget.

First, we have a track record: Land conservation has been a bright spot in our collective Bay restoration efforts. One of the specific goals of the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement was to permanently protect 20 percent of the land area of the watershed in the signatory jurisdictions by 2010. This goal was met by mid-2009, primarily through investments made by state and local governments and non-profits. The overwhelming success of the Chesapeake Bay Program, which achieved its initial land conservation goal of protecting 20 percent of the land in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia by 2010, serves as a prime example of regional actors working in partnership to accomplish a significant goal.

Second, our landscape is of national significance: The Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* initiative listed the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a priority project in both Maryland and Virginia. Democrats (e.g. President Obama's Chesapeake Executive Order #13508) and Republicans (e.g. President Reagan's reference to the Bay in his State of the Union) alike have repeatedly recognized the Bay as a national and even international treasure. The Bay as an issue polls as a bipartisan project worthy of public and private support with citizen groups, non-profits, businesses and government actors on all levels continuing to support the protection of its labyrinth of rivers and landscapes.

Third, land conservation plays a vital role in restoration: The Chesapeake Bay region is subject to the largest TMDL in this nation's history. We are tightly focused on reducing nutrient and sediment pollution and will see these efforts to success. We firmly believe that large-scale conservation of our region's landscapes is vital to restoring the health of the Bay and our rivers, and that preserving working farms and forests, protecting the watershed's character and history, and ensuring access are critical components of this success.

We understand that the National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service submitted a proposal to the Department of the Interior to protect 17,000 additional acres in the watershed. We support this proposal and hope that the Administration's FY15 budget will enable our region to accomplish our shared goals by choosing the Chesapeake as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area.

Protecting America's Founding River

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION • 9 SOUTH 12TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219
(804) 788-8811 • (804) 788-1119 FAX • website: www.jamesriverassociation.org



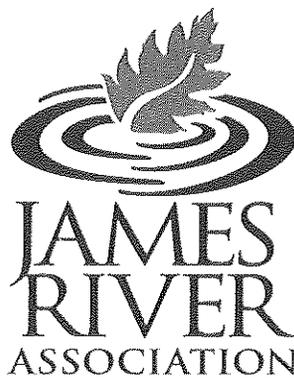
Printed on
Recycled Paper

We are extremely grateful for your serious consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. H. Street', written in a cursive style.

William H. Street
Chief Executive Officer



August 15, 2013

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

I write to you on behalf of the James River Association, the oldest and largest river organization in Virginia, to convey our support for the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and is highly worthy as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area in the FY15 budget.

First, we have a track record: Land conservation has been a bright spot in our collective Bay restoration efforts. One of the specific goals of the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement was to permanently protect 20 percent of the land area of the watershed in the signatory jurisdictions by 2010. This goal was met by mid-2009, primarily through investments made by state and local governments and non-profits. The overwhelming success of the Chesapeake Bay Program, which achieved its initial land conservation goal of protecting 20 percent of the land in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia by 2010, serves as a prime example of regional actors working in partnership to accomplish a significant goal.

Second, our landscape is of national significance: The Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* initiative listed the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail as a priority project in both Maryland and Virginia. Democrats (e.g. President Obama's Chesapeake Executive Order #13508) and Republicans (e.g. President Reagan's reference to the Bay in his State of the Union) alike have repeatedly recognized the Bay as a national and even international treasure. The Bay as an issue polls as a bipartisan project worthy of public and private support with citizen groups, non-profits, businesses and government actors on all levels continuing to support the protection of its labyrinth of rivers and landscapes.

Third, land conservation plays a vital role in restoration: The Chesapeake Bay region is subject to the largest TMDL in this nation's history. We are tightly focused on reducing nutrient and sediment pollution and will see these efforts to success. We firmly believe that large-scale conservation of our region's landscapes is vital to restoring the health of the Bay and our rivers, and that preserving working farms and forests, protecting the watershed's character and history, and ensuring access are critical components of this success.

We understand that the National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service submitted a proposal to the Department of the Interior to protect 17,000 additional acres in the watershed. We support this proposal and hope that the Administration's FY15 budget will enable our region to accomplish our shared goals by choosing the Chesapeake as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area.

Protecting America's Founding River

JAMES RIVER ASSOCIATION • 9 SOUTH 12TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219
(804) 788-8811 • (804) 788-1119 FAX • website: www.jamesriverassociation.org



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Recycled Paper

We are extremely grateful for your serious consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. H. Street', written in a cursive style.

William H. Street
Chief Executive Officer



August 19, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Lancaster County Conservancy, I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a LWCF conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Lancaster County Conservancy is a 43 year old accredited land trust and serves as the lead organization for the PADCNR Susquehanna Riverlands Conservation Landscape Initiative. The Conservancy has taken a leadership role in an innovative partnership with local utility companies to preserve critical lands along the Susquehanna River. During FY13 and FY14, the Conservancy will accept over 1200 acres of land from PPL, as part of re-licensing of their hydroelectric plant on the Susquehanna River. These lands will be managed in concert with the Conservancy's existing preserves, and previous PPL transfers which total 3,469 acres. Management funding was provided by PPL. LWCF funds can be leveraged with DCNR funding to preserve key parcels linking natural lands and insuring the permanent protection of this critical landscape.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and host the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the president's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors Report*

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

Jerry Fulmer



117 South West End Avenue • PO Box 716
Lancaster, PA 17608-0716
Tel.: 717.392.7891 • Fax: 717.392.8220

www.lancasterconservancy.org • conserve@lancasterconservancy.org



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Steven Price

Pro-Bono Counsel

Hunton & Williams. LLP

August 12, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Land Trust of Virginia, its members, and its Board of Directors, I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

The Land Trust of Virginia has conserved approximately 12,600 acres in the Potomac, Rappahannock, and James River watersheds. We remain committed to the conservation of large landscapes in our organization's jurisdiction in the Chesapeake watershed.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined in the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Owen
Executive Director

cc: State and federally elected officials
Joel Dunn, Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservancy



Lower Susquehanna
Heritage Greenway, Inc.
4948 Conowingo Road
Darlington, Maryland 21034
410-457-2482
lshinfo@comcast.net
www.hitourtrails.com



August 14, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a LWCF conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to stimulate local economic activity by developing a linkage to natural, historic and cultural resources through land and water recreational trails along the shores of the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. To date, 22 of our planned 40 miles of continuous public recreation trails connecting Harford and Cecil counties have been constructed. The trail system has been designated priority segments of both the Star-Spangled Banner and Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trails.

In addition to the recreational benefits of this trail, the development of our heritage area has become a catalyst for regional economic development, historic preservation and environmental stewardship. The LSHG has leveraged over 15 million dollars in public / private project funding and is in the process of leveraging millions more. Currently, we are working with the city of Havre de Grace to create 2 waterfront parks on the Chesapeake Bay. We are also working with the town of Perryville on a waterfront-adjacent park. Over 5.8 million dollars will be invested in the next two years in the development of these parks.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and host the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the president's conservation and access

goals for the region, as outlined by the Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* Report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann Lisanti".

Mary Ann Lisanti
Executive Director



August 12, 2013

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The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and is highly worthy as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area in the FY15 budget.

MET, a statewide land trust, has conserved over 129,000 acres in the Chesapeake Bay watershed in Maryland, including the Nanticoke and Potomac River watersheds. As the steward of more than 1,050 conservation easements, MET remains committed to the protection of Maryland's scenic, natural and cultural landscapes for its citizens today and future generations.

The many rivers that support our nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report. We urge you to support the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* Landscape Collaborative proposal and use Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to protect this national natural treasure.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for your commitment to the conservation of the irreplaceable landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Buxton".

Elizabeth Buxton
Director

cc: Joel Dunn, Chesapeake Conservancy

August 22, 2013

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250

Patrick Coady
Chair

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

Mitch Bonanno
Secretary

On behalf of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a LWCF conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Frank Casey

Gregory Evans

Hon. Dennis Hertel

Gary Kirkbride

Hon. Jean R. Packard

Glenn Prickett

Elinor Schwartz

Hon. Patsy Ticer

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust serves the six counties of northern Virginia. We are committed to conserving nature in this increasingly high density area, protecting water quality, and working with our partners to protect the streams and rivers of the Chesapeake watershed that flow through our six counties to the Potomac River and beyond. We are a twenty year old land trust working cooperatively with county governments to help them achieve their open space plans as we achieve our mission. Specifically, we are working now in Fairfax County to protect the 400 acre Belmont Bay Farm. This project would benefit directly from the approved *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Peggy Stevens

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and host the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the president's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* Report

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,


Peggy Stevens
Executive Director



GREATER WASHINGTON





August 21, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Potomac Conservancy, I write to express our strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and is highly worthy as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area in the FY15 budget.

The Potomac Conservancy has conserved over 12,000 acres in the Potomac River watershed. We believe there are additional properties on both sides of the Nation's River that deserve protection. We remain committed to the conservation of large landscapes in the Potomac watershed and feel any future success will require strong and sustained federal leadership and investment.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay, a national natural and economic asset, is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to support the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your commitment to protecting our nation's vital landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hedrick Belin".

Hedrick Belin
President

cc: Representative Jim Moran
Joel Dunn
Patrick Noonan



Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends Group
P.O. Box 1565
Warsaw, VA 22572
804-366-6851

August 15, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

I am writing on behalf of the Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends Group in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal, which seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

Our many rivers that feed this nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report. The *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal for focusing Land and Water Conservation Fund monies would provide critical resources to achieve these goals and help us protect larger landscapes.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural and cultural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

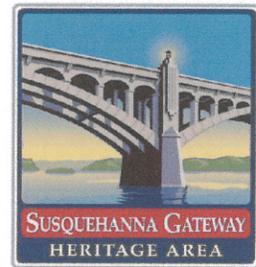
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Graziano".

Ann Graziano, President

August 13, 2012

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20250



1706 Long Level Road
Wrightsville, PA 17368

717.252.0229

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area, I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a LWCF conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

The Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area has worked with our partners to conserve 368 acres in the Susquehanna River watershed. Specifically, we have developed the Susquehanna Heritage Park – a signature park, heritage site and education center that showcases the historic, cultural and environmental resources of the lower Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay. Located in the river bluffs south of Wrightsville, Pennsylvania, the park includes multiple properties, such as Highpoint Scenic Vista and Recreation Area and two Native American heritage sites that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This year we will be undertaking a \$1.48 million enhancement project at our office, the Zimmerman Center for Heritage, providing needed public recreational access to the Lower Susquehanna River.

In our role as a regional advocate for protection of cultural and natural resources, the Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area is working with local, state and national partners to help conserve thousands of acres in the Susquehanna River Watershed for outdoor learning and adventure. Through our partnership with Lancaster County Conservancy and PA DCNR we have worked with PPL on an historic agreement that will permanently protect over 1200 acres in the Lower Susquehanna. LWCF funding will provide the opportunity to further expand this land preservation effort. We also played a key role in helping save Camp Security, a 150-acre historic site, significant for its role as a Revolutionary War prisoner of war camp, at the headwaters of a tributary to the Susquehanna River. We remain committed to the conservation of large landscapes in the Susquehanna's critically important share of the Chesapeake watershed.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and host the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the president's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* Report

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Platts".

Mark Platts
President

CC: U.S. Senator Bob Casey (PA); U.S. Senator Pat Toomey (PA); Congressman Scott Perry (PA-4); Congressman Patrick Meehan (PA-7); Congressman Joe Pitts (PA-16); Joel Dunn, Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservancy; PA DCNR Deputy Secretary Cindy Dunn

THE
CONSERVATION FUND

1655 N. Fort Myer Drive, Suite 1300
Arlington, Virginia 22209-3199
(703) 525-6300 Fax: (703) 525-4610
www.conservationfund.org

August 16, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of The Conservation Fund, we write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and is highly worthy as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area in the FY15 budget.

The Conservation Fund has conserved over 300,000 acres in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. We remain committed to the conservation of large landscapes in our conservation work across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The Great Rivers that nurture our nation's largest tidal estuary—many linked by the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail—provide an important conservation framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay, a national natural and economic asset, is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to support the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your commitment to protecting our nation's vital landscapes.

Sincerely,



Patrick F. Noonan
Chairman Emeritus

cc: Jon Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tom Tidwell, Chief, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management



August 22, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy's programs in Virginia and Maryland, we are writing to offer our strong support for including the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* as one of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) collaborative projects in the President's budget for fiscal year 2015. The Nature Conservancy has deep roots in land conservation efforts around the Chesapeake Bay, and such work will remain central to our larger conservation strategies in this landscape well into the future. Much of that protection work has been accomplished in close partnership with federal agencies, most notably the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Blackwater, Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuges.

Much of the discussion and attention on the Chesapeake Bay has been focused on addressing the Bay's serious water quality impairments. While such a focus is understandable, we also need to appreciate, value, and protect the many healthy and intact habitats found along the Bay and its tributaries. These special places remain the heart of the Bay and their protection is essential to the Bay's continued resilience and its ultimate restoration. The need to focus on land protection is well reflected in the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report. By targeting actions, encouraging cooperation, and providing a blueprint for ambitious but achievable at-scale success, the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* LWCF collaborative project will provide badly needed resources to achieve these and other established conservation objectives.

We firmly believe that the Chesapeake Bay is a natural and cultural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to seize on the watershed's many pressing and increasingly fleeting conservation opportunities. As such, we urge you to include the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative in the FY2015 budget and to accelerate your departments' proud record of accomplishment in this iconic landscape. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

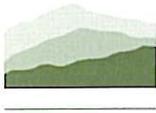


Michael Lipford
Virginia Director



Elizabeth Gray
Maryland Director

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



August 8, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Chesapeake and Central
Appalachians Field Office
600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE

Suite 401
Washington, DC
20003
T (202) 543-7552
F (202) 544-4723
www.tpl.org

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of The Trust for Public Land, I am writing in support of the FY 2015 Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) proposal for the Chesapeake Bay - *Rivers of the Chesapeake* - that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. This proposal would enable significant conservation achievements in the watershed of the nation's largest estuary. The Chesapeake region contains outstanding natural and cultural resources, offers exceptional recreational opportunities for visitors and residents and provides economic benefits to local communities.

The Trust for Public Land is a long-standing partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including efforts at the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia, and with the National Park Service at such sites as Piscataway National Park in Maryland and Prince William Forest National Park in Virginia. These areas are among those federal units that would benefit from designation of the Rivers of the Chesapeake as a Collaborative Landscape.

Federal investments in this landscape have leveraged state, local and private dollars in support of these conservation efforts because of their multiple benefits of improving recreational and educational opportunities, protecting wildlife habitat and increasing public access to public lands through the acquisition of inholdings.

For many years, The Trust for Public Land has worked with local and national partners on successful projects throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, most notably in Virginia and Maryland. We are pleased that the new CLP program offers an unprecedented opportunity to achieve our landscape-scale goals for protection of these important resources. The inclusion of the Chesapeake Bay in the President's Budget as part of the FY 2015 Collaborative Landscape Planning package would enable additional successes on the ground, benefitting communities and major natural resources and help implement the Executive Order for the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kent Whitehead, Director
Chesapeake Office





August 22, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack:

On behalf of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (an instrumentality of the Commonwealth of Virginia created in 1966 by the Virginia General Assembly), I write in strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. We believe the Chesapeake is a national treasure and should be a LWCF conservation focal area in the FY15 budget.

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation has protected approximately 700,000 acres across Virginia. The vast majority of these protected Virginia lands are in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This work is done primarily through easements that protect a wide variety of natural and cultural resources in perpetuity. We remain committed to the conservation of large landscapes in our organization's jurisdiction in the Chesapeake watershed.

The many rivers that feed our nation's largest tidal estuary and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail provide an innovative framework to achieve the President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the Executive Order #13508 *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report.

We firmly believe the Chesapeake Bay is a national natural treasure and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds to act upon the watershed's most urgent conservation needs. Thank you for your time, consideration of this matter, and commitment to protecting our nation's treasured landscapes.

Sincerely,

G. Robert Lee
Executive Director



WILLIAMSBURG LAND CONSERVANCY

It's your view - help protect it.

August 23, 2013

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Michael Whittaker

Executive Director

Caren Schumacher

Asst. Exec. Director

Elizabeth R. Friel

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Vilsack,

On behalf of the Williamsburg Land Conservancy (WLC), I am writing to express our strong support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* collaborative proposal that seeks to protect significant landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet shared conservation goals. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and is highly worthy as a Land and Water Conservation Fund focal area in the FY15 budget.

Formed as the Historic Rivers Land Conservancy in 1990, with a name change in 1996, the Williamsburg Land Conservancy's mission has been steadfast through the years. Our efforts to protect and preserve significant natural, scenic, agricultural and historic land in the lower James and York River watersheds has led to the conservation of 5,000 acres of land. These efforts have protected lands situated on the Pamunky and Mattaponi Rivers, Shady Banks, Nettles Creek, the James River, the York River, Collee Creek, and more.

The President's conservation and access goals for the region, as outlined by the *Executive Order #13508 Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* and by the Administration's *America's Great Outdoors* report are paramount if we are to act in the present to ensure for the health of the bay for the generations to come. This is not a choice, it is a responsibility that we have to our children and grandchildren and so on.

In 1612 Capt. John Smith said of this region "the mildness of the air, the fertilitie of the soile and the situation of the rivers are so propitious to the nature and use of man as no place is more convenient for pleasure, profit, and man's sustenance." His words still hold true today.

The Chesapeake Bay, our nation's largest tidal estuary is a national natural and economic asset and is worthy of receiving Land and Water Conservation Funds. Our conservation needs are urgent. Spending to meet these needs should be a priority.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to protecting this important national treasure. We are grateful for all you can do to advance our conservation work to ensure for a healthy bay not just for our lifetime, but in perpetuity.

Very sincerely,

Caren Schumacher
Executive Director

Conserving and Stewarding Our Land Resources for Future Generations

5000 New Point Road, Suite 3101 | Williamsburg, VA 23188 | P 757-565-0343 | WilliamsburgLandConservancy.org

The Washington Post

[Back to previous page](#)

U.S., groups working to open more public access to Chesapeake

By [Darryl Fears](#), Published: July 28

It's so big that it can be seen from space — 11,684 miles of shimmering shoreline, equaling the distance of the entire West Coast, from Mexico to Canada. But in this boiling-hot summer, good luck trying to get your boat or your body into the refreshing waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Only 2 percent of the bay has public access points for kayaks, canoes, fishing, bathing and other recreation. And some of those places are so packed with visitors on sunny weekends that motorists are forced to drive away or wait until someone leaves.

The development of farmland and sales of private homes, combined with the deterioration of aging public docks and ramps, have blocked access to the bay and its rivers and streams from the general public.

"I call it the world's biggest gated community, the Chesapeake Bay. There are probably 100 beaches in Anne Arundel County, but they are private beaches," said Mike Lofton, a retired economic development executive and an activist for bay access whose efforts helped open a public beach at Jack Creek Park, [south of Annapolis](#), last week. "For the general Jack and Jill, there's no other beach to go to."

Realizing that lack of access would also turn people away from concerns about the health of the nation's largest estuary and cradle for much of the Atlantic Ocean's marine life, President Obama issued an executive order three years ago to build 300 access points by 2025 — to complement slightly more than a thousand that exist in the bay watershed — but progress is slow.

The National Park Service has teamed with governments in the Chesapeake Bay region, including Maryland, Virginia and the District, to fund and construct about 30 water-access points, said John Davy, outdoor recreation resource planner for the Park Service.

Nonprofit groups such as the National Parks Conservation Association, Potomac Riverkeeper and West-Rhode Riverkeeper also are pushing for ways to get people to the water.

The conservation association launched [Freedom to Float](#) in January to encourage residents to paddle the transportation and communication corridors of Native Americans and American colonists, and walk historic trails



[How to Improve Memory with Scientifically Designed Brain Exercises](#)



[Why Scientists Are Urging Men Across the Country to Build Muscle](#)



[How Cruise Lines Fill All Those Unsold Cruise Cabins](#)

such as the Captain John Smith Chesapeake and Star-Spangled Banner national historic trails.

“We’ve been saving the bay from pollution for years, and it’s hard to get people invested in saving the rivers if they can’t get to them,” said Ed Stierli, the association’s landscape conservation fellow for national parks in the Chesapeake.

Access to the bay and its tributaries is a larger issue than people just wanting to get their feet wet. A National Fish and Wildlife Foundation [study two years ago](#) found that recreational power boating generated nearly \$33 billion in revenue nationwide and \$5 billion for the Chesapeake Bay region’s economy.

A 2006 study by the Active Outdoor Recreation Economy found that paddle-based recreation — canoes, kayaks and such, along with fishing — have a national economic value of \$97.5 billion.

On a more basic level, impoverished anglers across six states rely on the fish they catch to feed their families, said Pam Goddard, Chesapeake and Virginia program manager for the association.

About 17 million residents live in the Chesapeake Bay region — Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York and the District. Each state drafts a periodic Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, known as a SCORP, that has shown that people want more paths to streams, rivers and the bay.

A 2011 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report by the nonprofit Outdoor Foundation showed a 33 percent increase in kayaking, paddle-boarding and wind surfing in 2010 over the previous year. A similar survey that year in Virginia found a 70 percent increase in canoeing and kayaking over the past five years.

But a 64-mile stretch along the southern bank of the tidal James River, for example, has no regularly open access sites. “And there are long stretches of the Rappahannock, Potomac, Susquehanna, Nanticoke and other rivers, as well as the shoreline of the Bay where the public has little or no access to the water,” according to the [Chesapeake Bay Public Access Plan](#) drawn up by the Park Service last year.

In some urban areas such as the District, there are seven-to-15-mile stretches where people can’t get to water. The result: trespassing, a lack of concern about the region’s storied American Revolution and Civil War history, and apathy about eco-tourism.

Stierli is worried. “The Park Service has been moving along, but a lot of it comes down to funding . . . and the Park Service is underfunded and have limited funds for a lot of these access sites.”

That’s not entirely true, said Davy of the Park Service. Working with states and nonprofit groups is helping the Park Service develop access points at a steady pace, he said. Davy expressed optimism about reaching the goal of 300 new sites in 16 years.

“We provide technical assistance; sites are built by partners through our partner relationships,” he said.

Lofton and several companions weren’t willing to wait for the state or federal government to burn a path to a beach in a county surrounded by water.

In “some of the best locations, the county requires you to get a permit” to walk a beach, Lofton said. The 30-day permits rival those for “immigration into the U.S.,” Lofton said, because of the details required to complete

them. "They're very discouraging," he said.

Walking on the county's Beverly Triton Beach required a permit until recently, Lofton said. The requirement was dropped after he and his associates complained.

Opening Jack Creek to the public took more planning, he said. A committee was formed to draw up a proposal for a modest parking lot that "could be created without a lot of complex permitting," said Lofton, who is on the West-Rhode Riverkeeper board.

The winding path to the beach through brush isn't for the faint of heart, with all the bugs along the way. But it's worth it to Lofton.

"I routinely see bald eagles," he said. "It is a gorgeous sight." Too many people might scare away the eagles, so the county should spread them out. "We clearly need lots of places like this," Lofton said.

That won't be easy for the Park Service, a county or any government agency. Farmland that dominated the region is being sold to developers, who are building pricey houses and selling them to wealthy residents.

Homeowners frown on trespassers, who sometimes talk loudly and leave trash. On the other hand, Lofton said, the bay and its tributaries belong to the people.

"They're concerned about their quality of life; they're protective of it. I can understand a concern about more people and more boats being overwhelming," Lofton said.

But "it's the public's property. You're darn right. And we paid for it with flush fees and storm-water fees," he said. "Doggone it, if you're going to make everybody pay, then everybody should benefit."

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