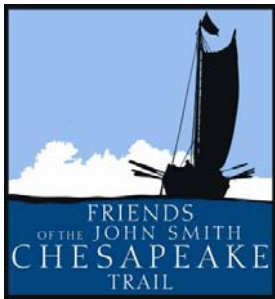


*A Letter to the United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Partners for a Chesapeake Bay Treasured Landscape Initiative*



CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure



George Washington's
MOUNT VERNON
ESTATE & GARDENS



FRIENDS
OF CHESAPEAKE GATEWAYS



April 2, 2010

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

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

Dear Chairman Feinstein and Ranking Member Alexander:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



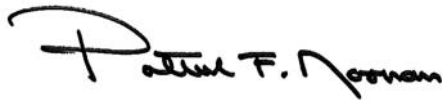
John Griffin
Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources



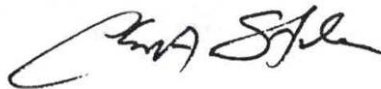
John Quigley
Acting Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
& Natural Resources



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



Patrick Noonan
Founder
Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail



Charles A. Stek
President & CEO
Environmental Stewardship Strategies



John Reynolds
Deputy Director (retired)
National Park Service



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



Hendrick Belin
President
Potomac Conservancy



Ann Swanson
Executive Director
Chesapeake Bay Commission



Roy Hoagland
Vice President
Chesapeake Bay Foundation



James C. Rees
President
Mount Vernon Ladies' Association



Michael Nardolilli
President
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust



Scott Beatty
Chairman of the Board
Friends of the Chesapeake Gateways



Trish Carothers
Development & Outreach Officer
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership



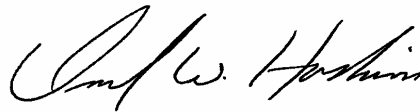
Bill Street
Executive Director
James River Association



Chris G. Miller
President
Piedmont Environmental Council of Virginia



Wade Blackwood
Executive Director
American Canoe Association



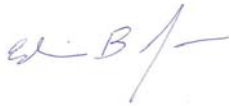
Dave Hoskins
Executive Director
Izaak Walton League of America



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



Deanna Beacham



EB James
Executive Director
Nanticoke Watershed Alliance



Rob Etgen
Executive Director
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy



Auriel A. Fenwick
Chairwoman
Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs



Don Welsh
President & CEO
Pennsylvania Environmental Council