



*Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary*

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May 21, 2019

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Young  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva, Chairwoman Haaland, Ranking Member Bishop and Ranking Member Young:

I am writing to express my support for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act of 2019 (H.R. 2427), which would extend the authorization for the program for an additional six years.

Established by Congress in 1998, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways program enhances natural and cultural resources stewardship by connecting people with the Chesapeake Bay through outdoor recreation opportunities, exhibits, interpretive signage, and youth programs.

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
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Page Two

Nearly \$22 million in financial and technical assistance has been awarded through the National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Bay Office, which has supported more than 360 projects throughout the watershed. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has benefited greatly from this program through improvements to our public lands, outreach events for our Latino visitors, and development of new interpretive programs that inspire stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay. A six-year reauthorization would solidify NPS as an important federal partner and would enable them to invest in longer-range strategic partnerships and plans.

With that in mind, I urge your support in passing H.R. 2427 and providing more certainty for reaching our goals under the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, including environmental education, land conservation, diversity, and stewardship. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the State of Maryland's Director of Federal Relations, Tiffany Waddell, at [tiffany.waddell@maryland.gov](mailto:tiffany.waddell@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JHR", is positioned above the typed name.

Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio  
Secretary

# Supporters of NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Watertrails Network

May 20, 2019

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
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House Committee on Natural Resources  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
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and Public Lands  
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The Honorable Don Young  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests  
and Public Lands  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva, Chairwoman Haaland, Ranking Member Bishop and Ranking Member Young:

We write in support of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Reauthorization Act of 2019 (HR. 2427) to extend authorization for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails program for an additional six years.

Established by Congress in 1998, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways program enhances natural and cultural resources stewardship by connecting people with the Chesapeake Bay through outdoor recreation opportunities, exhibits and interpretive trail signage, and youth programs.

The Gateways program has allowed the National Park Service (NPS) Chesapeake Bay Office to provide approximately \$22 million in financial and technical assistance for more than 360 projects in communities across the watershed, improving Bay access and fueling our thriving outdoor recreation economy.

The program has been reauthorized every two years for a decade. With the current authorization ending this year, we urge you to pass a longer-term authorization that gives the program and all its many partners the certainty the Chesapeake merits.

The NPS has responsibility for five of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement goals, including: land conservation, public access, stewardship, diversity and education. The Gateways program has provided critical support for the NPS's role in the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and the collective effort to protect and restore the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay is as beautiful and as precious to the nation as the Grand Canyon National Park, Yellowstone National Park, or Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The Gateways program is a vital part of our efforts to protect our national treasure, grow our outdoor recreation economy and celebrate and enjoy the beauty of the Chesapeake.

## Supporters of NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways & Watertrails Network

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HR. 2427.

Sincerely,

Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Matthew J. Strickler, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources

Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission

Christopher G. Miller, President, Piedmont Environmental Council

Lisa Feldt, Vice President for Env. Protection and Restoration, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Hedrick Belin, President, Potomac Conservancy

Mark Platts, President, Susquehanna National Heritage Area

Pam Goddard, Senior Prog. Dir., Mid-Atlantic Reg., National Parks Conservation Association

Sean O'Brien, President and CEO, NatureServe

Robert C. Clark, President, Historic Annapolis, Inc.

Drew McMullen, President, Sultana Education Foundation

Jim R. Foster, President, Anacostia Watershed Society

Pam Bowman, Director of Public Lands Policy, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Rob Etgen, President, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

William H. Street, President, James River Association

John Reynolds, Former Deputy Director, National Park Service

Joel Dunn, President and CEO, Chesapeake Conservancy