



March 5, 2024

Honorable Tom Tiffany, Chairman
Honorable John Curtis, Vice Chairman
Honorable Joe Neguse, Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee, Federal Lands Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 1584, Plum Island National Monument Act

Dear Chairman Tiffany, Vice Chairman Curtis, and Ranking Member Neguse:

The Preserve Plum Island Coalition (PPIC) is comprised of more than 120 national, regional, and local organizations, whose collective membership totals several million members, united by the goal of permanently preserving Plum Island, New York. Members support the PPIC mission, which is to secure the permanent protection of the significant natural, historical, and cultural resources of Plum Island. Plum Island is a federally owned gem, boasting 24 ecological communities and high biodiversity, including 229 species of birds. It offers opportunities to educate the public about American history, the cultural heritage, and nature. It lies at the confluence of two National Estuaries – Long Island Sound and the Peconic Estuary.

The PPIC advocates for comprehensive conservation and management solutions that safeguard this national treasure in the public trust as a national monument, wildlife refuge, preserve, or other equivalent protection, with carefully managed and equitable public access, in perpetuity.

As members of the Steering Committee of the PPIC, we write to express to you our strong support for the passage of H.R. 1584, the “Plum Island National Monument Act” sponsored by Representative Nicholas LaLota (1st Congressional District-NY), designating Plum Island a national monument for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation, and the discovery and celebration of our shared cultural heritage. Specifically, this important legislation will ensure the permanent protection of the highly significant ecological, historical, and cultural resources found on Plum Island, through its dedication as a national monument under the management of the Department of Interior.

To this end, we are most appreciative of your consideration of H.R. 1584, through the hearing of the Federal Lands Subcommittee designed to receive input on this legislative initiative. We thank Representative LaLota for his introduction of the bill and thank the bill’s co-sponsors: Representatives Courtney, Garbarino, Himes, D’Esposito, and Lawler. We strongly support its adoption, designating Plum Island a national monument *for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation, and the discovery and celebration of our shared cultural heritage.*

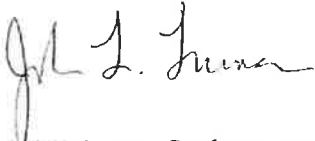
Achieving Plum Island’s permanent protection is a goal supported by elected officials at all levels of government. In addition to federal support, many Long Island members of the New York State Senate and Assembly, the entire 18-member Suffolk County Legislature, and the Supervisor and other members of the Southold Town Board (within whose town Plum Island is situated), have strongly supported the permanent protection of this nationally significant, federally owned asset. Widespread support for preserving Plum

P.O. Box 1851, Southold, NY 11971 | c/o Save the Sound, 127 Church Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, CT 06510
For email correspondence, please write: Louise Harrison, lharrison@savethesound.org or John Turner, redknot948@gmail.com

Island can be seen in a compilation of letters from elected officials, organizations, and citizens, along with editorials, articles, and media productions, in a volume we posted to www.preserveplumisland.org/campaign-support last fall.

We hope to work with your Subcommittee and Representative LaLota's office in achieving this outcome. Please consider the PPIC to be a resource to you and your staff if you have any questions concerning the resources of Plum Island, past and current efforts to protect it, and discussions various PPIC members have had with governmental agencies and stakeholders regarding the same.

Sincerely,



John Turner, Spokesperson
Preserve Plum Island Coalition

Members of the PPIC Steering Committee:

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| John Turner, <i>Spokesperson</i> | Nicole Layman, <i>The Wilderness Society</i> |
| Louise Harrison, <i>Save the Sound</i> | Mark Levine, <i>Orient Association</i> |
| Leah Lopez Schmalz, <i>Save the Sound</i> | Marian Lindberg, <i>The Nature Conservancy in New York</i> |
| Denise Stranko, <i>Save the Sound</i> | Vanessa Lockel, <i>Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County</i> |
| Drienne Benner, <i>Orient Association</i> | Erin McGrath, <i>Audubon New York</i> |
| Gordon Bliss, <i>Coast Defense Study Group</i> | Anne Murray, <i>North Fork Environmental Council</i> |
| Sandi Brewster-walker, <i>Montaukett Indian Nation</i> | Francis O'Shea, <i>Trust for Public Land</i> |
| Yvette DeBow-Salsedo, <i>Peconic Land Trust</i> | Casey Petrashek, <i>New York League of Conservation Voters</i> |
| Robert DeLuca, <i>Group for the East End</i> | David Reisfield, <i>Friends of Plum Island</i> |
| Adrienne Esposito, <i>Citizens Campaign for the Environment</i> | Richard Remmer, <i>Friends of Plum Island and Parks & Trails NY</i> |
| Jane Fasullo, <i>Sierra Club Long Island Group</i> | Rebecca Rubin, <i>Nature First Consulting, LLC</i> |
| Gregory Jacob, <i>The Nature Conservancy in New York</i> | |
| Robert LaFrance, <i>Audubon Connecticut</i> | |

Cc: The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman, Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Nicholas LaLota, Representative, 1st District – NY
The Honorable Joe Courtney, Representative, 2nd District – CT
The Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino, Representative, 2nd District – NY
The Honorable James A. Himes, Representative, 4th District – CT
The Honorable Michael Lawler, Representative, 17th District – NY

Attachment: Members of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition

Members of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition

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| American Birding Association | Connecticut Ornithological Association | Group for the East End |
| American Bird Conservancy | Conservation & Natural Areas Planning | Great Gull Island Project |
| American Littoral Society, Northeast Chapter | Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County | Henry L. Ferguson Museum - Fishers Island |
| Andrew Sabin Family Foundation | Defend H2O | Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society |
| Archipelago New York | East End Apiaries | The Ink Spot Southold |
| Asharoken Garden Club | East End Lighthouses | InnerSpace Scientific Diving |
| Audubon Connecticut | East End Seaport Museum & Marine Foundation | Island Outreach Foundation |
| Audubon New York | Eastern Long Island Chapter of Surfrider Foundation | Long Island Audubon Council |
| The Captain's Table Charters | East Hampton Town Natural Resources Department | Eastern Long Island Audubon |
| Central New York Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology | East Marion Community Association | Great South Bay Audubon |
| Citizen's Campaign for the Environment | Endangered Species Coalition | Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon |
| Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor | Environment East - Peconic | Four Harbors Audubon |
| Coast Defense Study Group | Environmental Defense Fund | North Shore Audubon |
| Coastal Research and Education Society of L.I. | Finker Wellness, Inc. | North Fork Audubon |
| Coastal Steward Long Island | Fishers Island Conservancy | South Shore Audubon |
| Concerned Citizens of Montauk | Fishers Island Oyster Farm | Long Island Botanical Society |
| The Connecticut Audubon Society | Footprints In The Water, LLC | Long Island Environmental Voters Forum |
| Connecticut - Rhode Island Coastal Fly Fishers | Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast | Long Island Forest Walks |
| Connecticut Land Conservation Council | Friends of Plum Island | Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference |
| | The Garden Club of East Hampton | Long Island Greenways and Healthy Trails |
| | Gourmet Foods International | Long Island Indigenous People Museum & Research Institute |

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| Long Island Nature Organization | Northeast Sisters of Mercy/Associates, Bridgeport CT Coalition | Seatuck Environmental Association |
| Long Island Paddlers | North Fork Environmental Council | Setauket Harbor Task Force |
| Long Island Pine Barrens Society | North Shore Land Alliance | Sierra Club - Connecticut Chapter |
| Long Island Soundkeeper | Norwalk River Watershed Association | Sierra Club, Long Island Group |
| Mattabesecck Audubon Society | Old Saybrook Land Trust | Sierra Club, New York City Group |
| Mattituck-Laurel Civic Association | Operation SPLASH | Southold Indian Museum |
| Menunkatuck Audubon Society | Orient Association | Southold Town Historic Preservation Commission |
| Montaukett Indian Nation | Park & Trails New York | StoneRidge Conservation Committee |
| Mystic Aquarium | Potapaug Audubon Society | Suffolk County Legislator Steven Englebright |
| Narrow River LLC | Randall T. Parsons AICP | The Trust for Public Land |
| Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club | Peconic Baykeeper | Third House Nature Center |
| The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut | Peconic Land Trust | Three Village Community Trust |
| The Nature Conservancy in New York | Preservation Long Island | Treiber Farms |
| The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island | Quality Parks | Trimble's of Corchaug Nursery |
| New London Maritime Society | Queens County Bird Club | United States Lighthouse Society |
| New York City Audubon | Quogue Wildlife Refuge | WATERWASH Projects |
| New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV) | Regional Plan Association | Westbrook Land Conservation Trust |
| New York Sailing Club | Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association | Whaling Museum and Education Center of Cold Spring Harbor |
| New York Section of the International Dark Sky Association | Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation | Wild Bird Crossing of Bridgehampton |
| New York State Ornithological Association | The Safina Center | Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset |
| New York State Marine Education Association | Save the Bay - RI | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| | Save Mattituck Inlet | |
| | Save the Sound | |