

CITIZENS FOR A FORT MONROE NATIONAL PARK, INC.
P.O. Box 97
Fort Monroe, VA 23651

July 3, 2011

Honorable Scott Rigell
U.S. House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Fort Monroe National Historical Park

Dear Congressman Rigell:

I am writing on behalf of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park ("CFMNP") regarding the legislation to authorize and establish a substantial national park unit at Fort Monroe.

I want to report to you that CFMNP strongly supports the legislation you are introducing to create a Fort Monroe National Historical Park. CFMNP formed in 2006 to represent the many thousands of citizens in the Hampton Roads region, the Commonwealth and the nation who seek a significant national park unit at Fort Monroe to celebrate and honor the incredible history of the site and, at same time, provide the public a national park in the midst of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area on the Chesapeake Bay with spectacular scenery, beaches, dunes, and other natural resources.

The bill you are introducing has been carefully developed over the last several months to incorporate the views and priorities of the many varied groups involved in determining Fort Monroe's future following the U.S. Army's departure in the fall of 2011. Groups involved included the Fort Monroe Authority ("FMA"), the state entity charged with planning and managing the property upon the Army's departure, the City of Hampton, the locality in which the historic property is located, the office of Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell, and other non-profit organizations including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Parks Conservation Association, Civil War Trust, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Conservancy, Preservation Virginia, and the Contraband Historical Society. Importantly the bill also represents the views of the National Park Service ("NPS") and the Virginia Congressional delegation, Republicans and Democrats, Senators and Congressmen, who have joined arms in supporting this bill, including your colleague Congressman Bobby Scott.

The bill then represents a remarkable consensus that has been developed over five years of discussion about Fort Monroe's future and shaped by a universal affection for and understanding of the importance of this place called Fort Monroe. It also reflects the conviction that the NPS must be a significant player in protecting and interpreting Fort Monroe in partnership with the FMA and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the private businesses and

individuals who will be operating or living on significant portions of the property (and generating significant revenue to assist in its preservation). This will truly be a “partnership” park but for its success, the NPS must be a significant participant, in the form set out in the bill. The economic benefits of a significant NPS unit at Fort Monroe will be important to the Commonwealth and the region.

Thank you for your strong and effective leadership on this great opportunity for the region. CFMNP stands ready to assist in any way it can as this bill advances in the House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Perreault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Perreault
President

cc: Congressman Bobby Scott
Terrie Suit
Molly Ward
Bill Armbruster