

Chesapeake Conservancy

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July 8, 2011

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

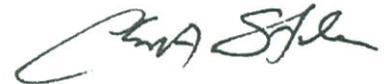
Dear Representative Rigell:

I am writing, on behalf of the Board of the Chesapeake Conservancy, to thank you for introducing the Fort Monroe National Historical Park Establishment Act of 2011 and for your advocacy in support of a National Monument designation for the property.

We believe that Fort Monroe and Old Point Comfort is a national treasure, a “pearl” on the string of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and a vital part of the Chesapeake’s natural and cultural landscape. It is unquestionably of National and historic significance and most worthy of status as a unit within our National Park System. Your legislation, combined with a National Monument proclamation by the President, will not only ensure that the Fort’s rich heritage will be preserved for future generations, but it will open up new and sorely needed access to the Chesapeake and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (NHT) and the Star Spangled Banner NHT. Moreover, it will help spur new jobs in tourism and recreation and help educate the public about the Fort’s and Virginia’s vital role in the history of our nation.

We commend you for your leadership on this important matter. If we could be of any assistance in advancing your legislation through the Congress, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,



Charlie Stek
Chairman

CC: Joel Dunn, Executive Director, Chesapeake Conservancy

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