

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2020

Margaret Everson
Acting Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Acting Director Everson:

We write to urge you to include critical funding for remediation of Fletcher's Cove in the District of Columbia in the projects eligible for fiscal year 2021 funding made available in the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). We support the efforts of the community and the National Park Service (NPS) to restore Potomac River access at Fletcher's Cove.

The recent enactment of GAOA gives NPS an opportunity to address the deferred maintenance backlog, a problem that disproportionately affects the National Capital Region (NCR). In the NCR, Fletcher's Cove is among the best public resources for residents and visitors alike, known locally as "the nation's premier urban fishery," and renowned for its abundance of wildlife, natural beauty and rich historical significance.

Despite the site's broad popularity, Fletcher's Cove is chronically impaired by human-made impacts. In the 1960s, a nearby infrastructure project altered the natural flow of the Potomac River, destabilizing the structure and composition of the surrounding riverbed. Prior to that project, the Fletcher's Cove was a deep and dependable entry point to the Potomac River for paddlers, anglers, birders and outdoor enthusiasts. Today, sediment continues to accumulate in the Fletcher's Cove, jeopardizing the site's once-reliable access to the Potomac River. Fletcher's Cove now requires an engineered floodplain and a riparian restoration project to maintain river access.

Congress came together in a bipartisan, bicameral fashion to provide NPS with the funding to address the backlog of maintenance projects through the GAOA. This funding presents a unique and timely opportunity to ensure Fletcher's Cove remains accessible for residents and visitors to enjoy. As NPS compiles the priority list for GAOA funding in fiscal year 2021, we encourage NPS to consider Fletcher's Cove remediation as a priority project.

Saving Fletcher's Cove is a regional priority, with strong support in the NCR and beyond. Please respond in writing within 30 days indicating NPS's priority maintenance projects and indicating whether Fletcher's Cove will be included in those priorities.

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Sincerely,



Eleanor Homes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/

Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

/s/

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress