

September 30, 2020

Margaret Everson
Acting Director of the National Park Service
1849 C St. NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Please include Fletcher's Cove as key asset and priority for GAOA FY21 maintenance funding.

Dear Acting Director Everson:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our support of the efforts to restore Potomac River access at Fletcher's Cove, the epicenter for outdoor recreation located within the boundaries of Washington D.C. and the C&O Canal National Historical Park (CHOH). We urge you to include critical funding for remediation of the site as part of the projects eligible for FY2021 funding made available through *The Great American Outdoors Act* (GAOA).

Fletcher's Cove is chronically impaired by human-made impacts that altered the natural flow of the river and caused a subsequent buildup of sediment. Prior to a 1960s infrastructure project that deposited large quantities of debris in the area, destabilizing the structure and composition of the surrounding riverbed, the Cove was a deep and reliable access point to the Potomac. Sediment continues to accumulate, and the Cove now requires an engineered floodplain and riparian restoration project to maintain river access.

We appreciate your continued support and hard work to achieve a long-term solution to the historic access issues at Fletcher's Cove. The Cove is a cherished asset within CHOH, known locally as, "the nation's premier urban fishery," and renowned for its abundance of wildlife, natural beauty, and rich historical significance. Thanks to the bipartisan work of Congress, GAOA maintenance backlog funding offers a unique and timely opportunity to finally ensure Fletcher's Cove remains accessible for visitors to enjoy. As the National Park Service compiles the Congressionally mandated list of priority projects eligible for FY2021 GAOA funding, we urge the Service to include maintenance of Fletcher's Cove river access as a regional and local priority.

Congratulations on the recent enactment of the *Great American Outdoors Act*, a momentous accomplishment for the National Park Service's legacy of conservation and public land stewardship. We hope that you will continue your support to achieve a long-term solution to the historic access issues at Fletcher's Cove. Including this remediation project in the FY2021 list of projects eligible for GAOA funding will go a long way to provide a long-term solution

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Bailey
Spokesperson
Friends of Fletchers Cove



Chris Wood
President
Trout Unlimited



Glenn Hughes
President
American Sportfishing Association



Ben Bulis
President
American Fly Fishing Tackle Association



Whit Fosburg
President
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership



Jeffrey S. Crane
President
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation



Hedrick Belin
President
Potomac Conservancy



Jim Foster
President
Anacostia Watershed Society



Nancy Stoner
President
Potomac Riverkeeper Network



Bill Holdsworth
President
C&O Canal Association



Jesse Simpkins
Director of Marketing
St. Croix Rods



Simon Perkins
President
Orvis



KC Walsh
President
Simms Fishing Products



Willy Goldsmith, Ph.D.
Executive Director
American Saltwater Guides Association

AMERICAN SALTWATER
GUIDES ASSOCIATION



Collin O'Mara
CEO
National Wildlife Federation



Land Tawney
CEO
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Patrick Murray
President
Coastal Conservation Association



Doug Austen
Executive Director
American Fisheries Society



Steve Kimm
President
Potomac River Smallmouth Club



Andrew Reichardt
President
National Capital Chapter Trout Unlimited



Randy Dwyer
President
Potomac Patuxent
Trout Unlimited



Jay Lovering
President
Northern Virginia - Trout Unlimited



Art Noglak
President
Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders



Rich Farino
President
District Angling



Patrick Berry
President and CEO
Fly Fishers International



