

April 27, 2023

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington D.C., 20240

The Honorable Michael Connor
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street NW
Washington D.C., 20314

Re: Letter of support for restoration at Fletcher's Cove, a premier urban gateway to the outdoors

Dear Secretary Haaland and Assistant Secretary Connor:

We, the undersigned businesses and organizations, write to express our support for ongoing efforts to maintain access to the Potomac River at Fletcher's Cove, an epicenter for outdoor recreation within the boundaries of Washington D.C., and the C&O Canal National Historical Park (CHOH). We ask you to support efforts to save the Cove by supporting dredging to maintain access until funding for a longer term solution may be identified.

Thousands of years ago, Indigenous people first used the Cove for gathering, hunting, and fishing. To this day, the Cove serves as a premier gateway to the outdoors. It has historically been a deep and dependable entry point to the Potomac River for paddlers, anglers, birders, and outdoor enthusiasts. Unfortunately, before the passage National Environmental Policy Act, thousands of tons of fill were dumped upstream, and sediment now threatens the site's once-reliable access to the Potomac River.

Renowned in the National Capital Region for its abundant wildlife, natural beauty, and historical significance, Fletcher's Cove is among D.C.'s finest public resources for residents and visitors alike. The site is more than an access point to the Potomac River—it is a first-class example of an urban park's benefits for a diverse array of users. As we work to restore Fletcher's Cove for the benefit of current and future outdoorspeople and conservationists, we request your support in establishing short-term river access through dredging and identifying a long-term sustainable solution. In the coming year, we urge you to work with stakeholders to implement these collaborative plans.

We commend Area Director Kym Hall and the CHOH for their commitment to identifying an effective solution to the access issue and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Sportfishing Association
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

District Angling
Friends of Fletcher's Cove
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
National Wildlife Federation
Tidal Potomac Fly Rodders
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
Yamaha RightWaters