

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2015

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director
National Park Service
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

In 2008, the U.S. Congress designated the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, a 560-mile land and water route that tells the story of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake region. The trail connects visitors to the people, places, and events leading up to the Battle for Baltimore, a moment of national pride forever symbolized in the Star-Spangled Banner flying above Fort McHenry, and the national anthem it inspired.

For three years, the people of Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia have commemorated the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 with events and programs throughout the Chesapeake Region and along the trail's path. But with the close of the bicentennial celebration, the trail takes on a new role as part of the bicentennial's legacy. It is critical that during this transition, the National Park Service and the trail's partners renew their commitment to ensuring the success and sustainability of the trail.

One of the best ways to secure the future of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail is to empower local communities to become citizen stewards of the trail. This is why, as Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation, we are proud to support the Trail to Every Classroom: A Star-Spangled Legacy (TTEC) project and its request for funding as part of the National Park Service's Centennial Challenge. Building upon the success of previous models at the Chesapeake Bay Office and the Appalachian Trail, TTEC will train educators to guide their students in becoming trail stewards. Through this program, teachers will receive the support and professional development they need to provide their classes with meaningful outdoor experiences along the trail. Students will learn about their local history and environment in a healthy, active way that fully aligns with Maryland's education standards. And the National Park Service will gain a new generation of visitors excited for the next 100 years of recreation, conservation, and historic preservation.

We encourage you to consider the Trail to Every Classroom project as part of the National Park Service's Centennial Challenge. With federal funding, the Park Service can reaffirm its commitment to the trail and its local partners, who stand ready to make the trail an enduring symbol of the Chesapeake region's place in our nation's history.

Sincerely,



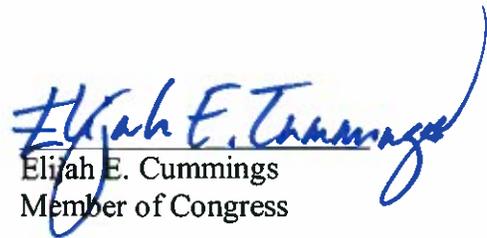
Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



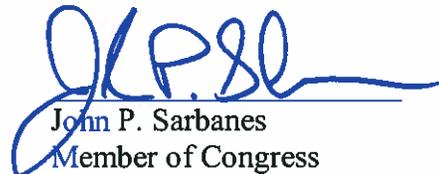
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress