



DestinationSouthernMaryland.com
301.343.2771

Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
P. O. Box 745 | Hughesville, MD 20637

To: Charles County Board of Commissioners

Re: SUPPORT of Land Donation to the Piscataway Conoy Tribal Council

March 13, 2025

Dear Charles County Board of Commissioners,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the donation of land at 16816 Country Lane in Waldorf Maryland, which is located on an inactive missile area known as the Waldorf Nike Battery (aka Nike Site) and its intended use for the development of a Piscataway Conoy Cultural Center and Museum. Requested on behalf of the state-recognized Piscataway Conoy Tribe under the leadership of Chairman Francis Gray and the elected Piscataway Conoy Tribal Council, this land donation will support the Piscataway Conoy tribal community's decades-long effort to preserve and protect the tribe's history, culture and heritage for future generations and will serve as a central location to share the Piscataway Conoy tribal legacy with those who desire to learn more about the original people of Southern Maryland, past, present and future.

The Piscataway people, their history and heritage, are essential to all of our history here in Southern Maryland. As the newest national heritage area in the United States, this transfer will provide a unique and powerful reason for people to visit our region. This land has been a historically cherished property, having been the site of numerous cultural events and activities in the past and we believe it holds great potential to contribute positively to strengthen the cultural identity of the tribe and encourage/enhance public awareness of the important historical lifeways of the Piscataway Conoy in the Southern Maryland region. We are confident that its intended use will bring significant benefits not only to Southern Maryland but also to anyone with the desire to learn more about our great state, and its origin story.

Again, we enthusiastically support this land donation and eagerly anticipate the positive impact it will have on the preservation of this incredibly unique part of Maryland's history. By enhancing educational programs, promoting the economic benefits of heritage tourism in Southern Maryland, and fostering collaboration with neighboring communities, the proposed Piscataway Conoy Cultural Center and Museum will become a major contributor to the region's growth and vitality.



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Please support the proposed land donation to the Piscataway Conoy Tribal Council. This exciting project will invest in Maryland's future.

Sincerely,

Lucille W. Walker

Executive Director