

March 11, 2025

Dear Charles County Commissioners;

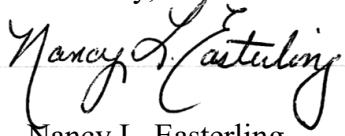
As the Executive Director of Historic Sotterley, a National Historic Landmark in Southern Maryland, I understand how important the preservation of the incredible history and culture of our region is to our State and to the Nation. I am writing to express my full support for the donation of land at 16816 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.

This land has been a historically cherished property, having been the site of numerous cultural events and activities in the past and I 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. I am 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!

I wholeheartedly support this generous act 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 (particularly since we are now part of the newly designated Southern Maryland National Heritage Area), and fostering collaboration with neighboring communities, the proposed Piscataway Conoy Cultural Center and Museum will undoubtedly contribute to the region's growth and vitality.

I am excited about the potential for this land donation and am hopeful for the bright future it will help create. Your investment in our region's heritage and culture is certain to reap benefits for years to come, and ensure that the stories of the Piscataway Conoy continue to be preserved, interpreted, and shared.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Easterling
Executive Director

Historic Sotterley Inc's Mission: Preserve our historic structures and natural environment and use the powerful stories of our land, lives, and labor to bring American history to life while serving as an educational and cultural resource.