

March 19, 2010

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Mr. Hank Hartz
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Box 909
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560

Dear Chairman Hartz:

The Northern Neck Land Conservancy requests the opportunity to present to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Board of Trustees a nomination for the Cat Point Creek watershed in Richmond and Westmoreland Counties, to be designated a *Special Project Area*. The NNLC would like to make the nomination and presentation at the VOF Board meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2010.

The Cat Point Creek Watershed is an ideal candidate for the Special Project Area designation. A few key elements are outlined below:

- Cat Point Creek is 19.32 miles long and runs the width of the Northern Neck with 46,800 acres of varying terrain that includes farms, streams, forests, mill ponds and wetland areas
- The lower tidal portions of the Creek are in the boundary of the USFWS Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- The watershed connects several important historic resources, including Menokin, Stratford Hall and the George Washington Birthplace
- Cat Point Creek is recognized as an important resource in both the Richmond County and the Westmoreland County *Comprehensive Land Use Plans*
- There are currently 19 VOF easements in Richmond County totaling 4,519.44 acres and 27 VOF easements in Westmoreland County totaling 6,644.30 acres and VOF easements are in place at both ends of the watershed, protecting key land parcels.

The Northern Neck Land Conservancy looks forward to working with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to protect this important resource.

Yours truly,

R. Page Henley
President

Northern Neck Land Conservancy Special Projects Area - 3rd Draft

George Washington's
Birthplace

Westmoreland State
Park

Stratford Hall

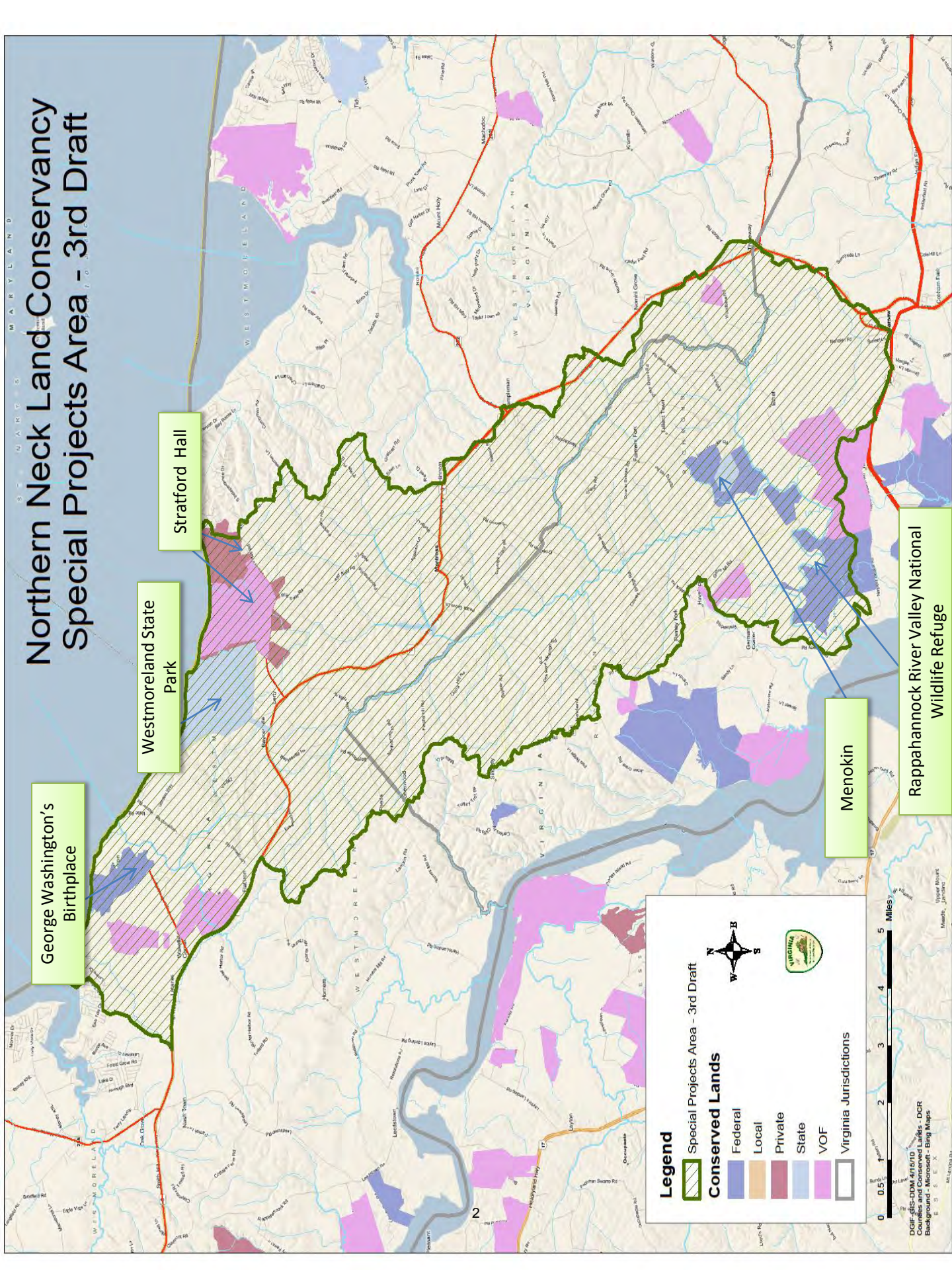
Menokin

Rappahannock River Valley National
Wildlife Refuge

Legend

- Special Projects Area - 3rd Draft
- Conserved Lands**
 - Federal
 - Local
 - Private
 - State
 - VOF
 - Virginia Jurisdictions

DCR-GIS-DOM-AT-RiverValley-LandUse-OCR
Background - Microsoft - Bing Maps



A RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE THE CAT POINT CREEK WATERSHED IN RICHMOND AND WESTMORELAND COUNTIES AS A VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION (VOF) SPECIAL PROJECT AREA

WHEREAS, the Northern Neck Land Conservancy has nominated the Cat Point Creek watershed in Richmond and Westmoreland Counties for Special Project Area designation, and

WHEREAS, the VOF Guidelines define factors justifying the designation of Special Project Areas, and

WHEREAS, the Cat Point Creek watershed is an area of statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, both the Richmond County and the Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plans recognize important conservation and historic resources in the Cat Point Creek watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Cat Point Creek watershed is 19.32 miles long and runs the width of the Northern Neck with 46,800 acres of varying terrain that includes farms, streams, forests, mill ponds and wetland areas; the lower tidal portions of the watershed lie within the boundaries of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge; the watershed connects several important historic resources, including Menokin, Stratford Hall and the George Washington National Birthplace; and

WHEREAS, support for the designation has been expressed by Richmond County, Westmoreland County, Robert E. Lee Memorial Association (Stratford Hall), the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, the Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Delegate Albert Pollard (Ninety-Ninth District, Virginia House of Delegates), Senator Richard H. Stuart, (District 28, Senate of Virginia), and Congressman Robert J. Wittman,(1st District, U.S. House of Representatives); and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the VOF Board of Trustees, this 25th day of June 2010, That the Cat Point Creek watershed in Richmond and Westmoreland Counties is hereby designated a VOF Special Project Area.

Adopted by a vote of ____ for and _____ against.

ATTEST:

G. Robert Lee, Executive Director



March 22, 2010

Mr. Bob Lee
Executive Director, Virginia Outdoors Foundation
324 Waterloo Street
Warrenton, Virginia 20186

Dear Mr. Lee,

As Executive Director of Stratford Hall, home of the Lees of Virginia which include Declaration of Independence signers Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, I am enthusiastic about the Cat Point Creek Plan of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy.

Currently, Stratford Hall is implementing a sustainable agriculture program, improving soil quality and producing crops by using organic agriculture techniques. The initiative also includes educational programs for adults and for children. A forest management plan is in place and plans are underway to conduct a comprehensive study of the entire landscape. Those educational programs are directly related to the mission of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy.

Stratford has placed over 1,000 acres in a conservation easement with the help of one of the founding members of the Northern Neck Land Conservancy, George Freeman, Jr. . Mr. Freeman co-authored the legislation in the field of historic and open space preservation law in the mid 1960s which established the Conservation and Historic Preservation Act : Virginia Code, Title 10.1, Chapter 10.1.

We fully endorse the Cat Point Creek Special Project Area as a planning tool for the Northern Neck Land Conservancy and we look forward to sharing Stratford's natural and historic resources with the Northern Neck Land Conservancy friends who want to learn more about preserving our rural heritage.

Sincerely,

Paul Reber
Executive Director

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

RICHARD H. STUART
28th SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF KING GEORGE, LANCASTER,
NORTHAMPTON AND RICHMOND, STAFFORD
AND WESTMORELAND COUNTIES, PART OF
FAUQUIER AND PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES
AND PART OF THE CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG
PHONE OFFICE: 804-1148
MONITOR: VIRGINIA 11502



March 26, 2010

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

G. Robert Lee
Executive Director
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
P.O. Box 125
Lancaster, Virginia 22503

Re: Letter of Support for Northern Neck Land Conservancy

Dear Bob:

As a member of the Advisory Board of the Northern Neck Conservancy for the last 6 years, I have observed the organization first hand. I have seen this land trust grow from an all volunteer organization to an organization with an office and staff. Preservation of the working farms and forests is a passion of mine, especially preserving the surroundings of our historic treasures such as Stratford and Menokin.

It is unusual to have a watershed like the Cat Point Creek watershed. It traverses the Northern Neck from the Potomac to the Rappahannock. It includes lush marshes and other habitats for ducks, eagles, peregrine falcons, and it is part of an Important Bird Area designated by the National Audubon Society. An Important Bird Area is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity.

I fully endorse the Northern Neck Land Conservancy's Cat Point Creek Special Project Area. I would be pleased to help with any educational activities by speaking or contacting landowners in the area that I personally know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RHS', written over a horizontal line.

Richard H. Stuart
Senator, District 28

RHS/pkl

ROBERT J. WITTMAN
1ST DISTRICT VIRGINIA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
READINESS SUBCOMMITTEE
SEAPOWERS AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND OCEANS SUBCOMMITTEE
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS,
AND PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE

CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL
SHIPBUILDING CAUCUS

WWW.WITTMANHOUSE.GOV

Mr. Bob Lee
Executive Director
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
324 Waterloo Street
Warrenton, VA. 20186

Dear Mr. Lee:

I am pleased to express my interest in the Northern Neck Land Conservancy's application to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to implement the Cat Point Creek Special Project Area.

As a longtime resident of Montross, Virginia and as former mayor of Montross (part of which falls in the Cat Point Creek Watershed), I am acutely aware of the pristine nature of the watershed. In order to maintain the working farms, forests, marshes and our view sheds of our historic treasures of national importance, I applaud the efforts of the land conservancy. I was very involved in the 2004 study of Cat Point Creek, which was a joint effort of the Northern Neck Planning District Commission, Tidewater RC&D, Northern Neck Soil and Water Conservation District, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

In 2006, while serving in the Virginia House of Delegates from the 99th District, I spoke to the land conservancy's Annual Meeting which was held at Menokin. I was impressed by the number of people attending, the interest that was displayed in preserving our rural heritage, and the professional manner that the meeting was held.

If there is any other information I can provide, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your organization's service to Virginia's First District.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

RJW: tcj

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4601

March 31, 2010

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1318 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4261

DISTRICT OFFICES:
FREDERICKSBURG OFFICE
3504 PLANK ROAD, SUITE 203
FREDERICKSBURG, VA 22407
(540) 548-1086

PENINSULA OFFICE
4904-B GEORGE WASHINGTON
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
YORKTOWN, VA 23692
(757) 874-6687

MIDDLE PENINSULA OFFICE
508 CHURCH LANE
TAPPAHANNOCK, VA 22560
(804) 443-0668



Northern Neck Planning District Commission

The Regional Center
457 Main Street
P.O. Box 1600
Warsaw VA 22572
(804) 333-1900
(804) 333-5274 Fax
www.nnpdc17.state.va.us

"Serving the counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland"

April 9, 2010

Robert G. Lee, Executive Director
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
324 Waterloo St.
Warrenton, VA 20186

Dear Mr. Lee:

On behalf of Northern Neck Planning District Commission, I want to add our support to the Cat Point Creek Special Project Area (CPCSPA) project that is being initiated by the Northern Neck Land Conservancy. NNLC has identified goals for the Cat Point Creek project area to increase lands voluntarily placed under conservation easements, improve wildlife habitat through preservation of breeding and nesting areas, improve water quality by reducing land fragmentation, preserve view sheds and lands adjacent to historic areas and provide an open space corridor to connect habitat areas between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers.

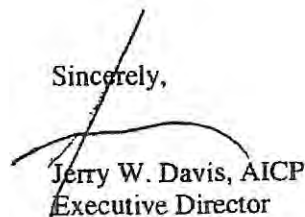
In 1996, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) issued an assessment of watersheds in Virginia. The report ranked Cat Point Creek as a high priority watershed for non-point source (NPS) pollution potential and high natural heritage value. Through citizen and agency efforts, a Citizens Committee was formed and public input was obtained through a series of four public meetings. The Northern Neck Planning District Commission compiled the public input and provided additional resource data and maps and authored the Cat Point Creek Watershed Plan in 2004.

The Northern Neck Planning District Commission has been working with Richmond and Westmoreland counties to help them develop a Green Infrastructure plan which includes protecting corridors that are linear habitats and that link cores and allow animal movement and seed and pollen transfer between cores. Cat Point Creek has been identified as one of the corridors that contain these valuable attributes. The CPCSPA has a goal of preserving these important habitat linkages.

The Northern Neck Planning District Commission is pleased to see the goals of the CPCSPA help address many of the issues identified in the Cat Point Creek Watershed Management Plan and the NNPDC is excited about working with the NNLC on the CPCSPA which will help further the goals of protecting valuable natural resources and provide a strong stable land base to protect the rural economies of this region.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerry W. Davis, AICP
Executive Director

Northern Neck-Chesapeake Bay Region Partnership
www.northernneck.us

TIDEWATER

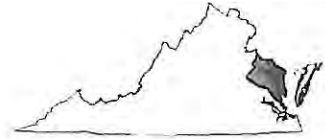
Resource Conservation and Development Council

772 Richmond Beach Road
Tappahannock, VA 22560-5001

(804) 443-1118

Fax: (804) 443-1511

April 1, 2010



Essex
Margaret "Prue" Davis

Gloucester
Carol E. Steele

King & Queen
John H. "Jerry" Walker

King William
Scott Lucchesi

Lancaster
Brian Barnes

Mathews
Steve Pope

Middlesex
John D. "Jack" Miller

Northumberland
Ida Hall

Richmond
Robert H. Mallory

Westmoreland
Lynn C. Brownley

At-Large Members
Patricia Bradshaw
Tom Murray
Richard Porterfield

§

Middle Peninsula PDC
Maurice "Mo" Lynch

Northern Neck PDC
Jerry W. Davis

Northern Neck SWCD
Joe Thompson

Three Rivers SWCD
Dawn Shank

Tidewater SWCD
Jason Bray

Robert G. Lee, Executive Director
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
324 Waterloo St
Warrenton, VA. 20186

Dear Mr. Lee,

I am writing on behalf of Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council to add our support to the Cat Point Creek Special Project Area (CPCSPA) that is being initiated by the Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC). The NNLC has identified the following goals for the Cat Point Creek project area: to increase lands voluntarily placed under conservation easements, to improve wildlife habitat through preservation of breeding and nesting areas, to improve water quality by reducing land fragmentation, to preserve view sheds and lands adjacent to historic areas and to provide an open space corridor to connect habitat areas between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers.

Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council has as its mission to help build an economically diverse and ecologically sound region. The CPCSPA project contains many aspects that we can work on together to support our mutual goals.

The 2004 Cat Point Creek Watershed Management Plan was sponsored by Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council with a grant from EPA. For over ten years the RC&D focused work in the Cat Point Creek due to its unique characteristics as a small watershed with primarily agricultural and forestry land uses. The Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council is pleased to see NNLC using the resource data in the watershed plan as a basis for CPCSPA goals that will address many of the issues that were identified.

The Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council is excited about working with the NNLC on the Cat Point Creek Special Project Area to help further the goals of protecting valuable natural resources and provide a strong stable land base to protect the rural economies of this region and will work with NNLC to identify and pursue the resources necessary to help implement this plan.

On March 23, 2010 the Tidewater Resource Conservation and Development Council voted unanimously to support the NNLC Cat Point Creek Special Project Area plan.

Sincerely,


Robert H. Mallory, Chairperson



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Eastern Virginia Rivers National Wildlife Refuge Complex
James River, Plum Tree Island, Presquile, and Rappahannock River Valley Refuges
336 Wilna Road
P.O. Box 1030
Warsaw, Virginia 22572

March 26, 2010

Robert G. Lee, Executive Director
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
324 Waterloo St.
Warrenton, VA 20186

Dear Mr. Lee:

I am writing on behalf of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge to add our support to the Cat Point Creek Special Project Area (CPCSPA) project that is being initiated by the Northern Neck Land Conservancy (NNLC).

The Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) was established in 1996 to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources, including endangered and threatened species and nationally significant wetlands. There are currently over 1,750 acres protected by the refuge within the Cat Point Creek watershed. The wetlands and adjoining uplands along the creek are listed among the highest priorities for land conservation in the refuge's Land Protection Plan. Refuge staff also served on the Cat Point Creek Citizen's Committee, leading to the development of the Cat Point Creek Watershed Management Plan.

NNLC has identified goals for the Cat Point Creek project area to: increase lands voluntarily placed under conservation easements, improve wildlife habitat through preservation of breeding and nesting areas, improve water quality by reducing land fragmentation, preserve view sheds and lands adjacent to historic areas and provide an open space corridor to connect habitat areas between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers. These goals of the CPCSPA are complementary those of the refuge and help address many of the conservation values the Refuge is working to protect.

The Refuge has been working with the NNLC for many years to identify landowners that are interested in protecting the wildlife habitat on their lands through permanent conservation easements or purchase by the Service for addition to the Refuge. The Cat Point Creek corridor and adjacent watershed contains valuable habitat for migratory bird species and is part of an "Important Bird Area" (IBA). This designation by the National Audubon Society recognizes areas that provide the most essential habitat to nesting, migrating, or wintering birds. The Lower Rappahannock River IBA has been designated



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

ALBERT C. POLLARD, JR.
POST OFFICE BOX 509
LIVELY, VIRGINIA 22507
NINETY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
FINANCE
COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS

April 15, 2010

Mr. Bob Lee, Executive Director
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
324 Waterloo Street
Warrenton, Virginia 20186

Dear Bob,

As a lifelong environmentalist, it gives me great pleasure to endorse a project that is being proposed in the Northern Neck to help preserve a pristine watershed, Cat Point Creek Special Project Area which is being implemented by the Northern Neck Land Conservancy.

This 19 mile long watershed is unusual because many families that own land in throughout this watershed are descendants of signers of the Leedstown Resolves, the prelude to the Declaration of Independence. Those families rely upon our natural resources for a livelihood and as a consequence, many parcels are still over 100 acres in size.

The Cat Point Creek Watershed area is rich in biological diversity. A 2004 study (The Cat Point Creek Watershed Management Plan) ranked Cat Point Creek as a high priority watershed for non-point source (NPS) pollution potential and high natural heritage value. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy and Virginia Commonwealth University also participated in the 2004 study. It was funded by the EPA through the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Nature Conservancy has identified Cat Point Creek as an aquatic portfolio and one of only a few "last great places" in the Coastal Plain of Virginia.

I have watched the Northern Neck Land Conservancy grow through the efforts of dedicated volunteers. The organization, now six years old, has helped to preserve over 10,000 acres in the Northern Neck. My mother, Mary Louisa Pollard, was the first president of NNLC so I know from personal experience, that the Northern Neck Land Conservancy will make every effort to make this special project an example of sound planning and implementation not only for the land trusts in Virginia but for the nation.

Sincerely,

Albert C. Pollard, Jr.