



## ***Saving the Chesapeake's Great Rivers and Special Places***

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May 1, 2024

Dear Virginia Congressional Delegation members,

On behalf of Chesapeake Conservancy, I am writing in support of the Indigenous Peoples' Day legislation introduced in the 118th US Congress; House Bill 5822 and Senate Bill 2970. We firmly believe it's time to reorient the national holiday on the second Monday in October to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Elevating the Indigenous voice is a core objective of our organization. One of Chesapeake Conservancy's greatest achievements was helping secure the funding to restore the 465 acres of ancestral homeland to the Rappahannock Indian Tribe, forever connecting the tribe to the Rappahannock River.

Chesapeake Conservancy is a nonpartisan organization and we do not believe the IPD reorientation is in any way a partisan issue. We request the support of the entire Virginia Congressional delegation for the IPD bills which will provide important bi-partisan leadership for the Commonwealth of Virginia and America, and an excellent example for your congressional colleagues.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Joel Dunn  
*President and CEO*  
*Chesapeake Conservancy*