

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

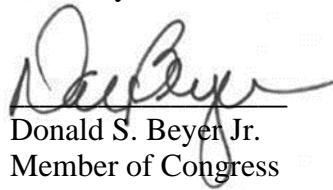
Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the “Mason Neck Trail Extension” project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Fairfax County Government, located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035. The funding will be used for preliminary engineering, environmental (NEPA) survey, archaeological survey, and construction of a paved, shared-use path from the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail at High Point Road 3,750 feet south towards the Joseph V. Gartlan Great Marsh Trail (GMT) parking lot.

Mason Neck Peninsula is a largely undeveloped area with about 6,600 of its 8,000 acres protected by different parks, refuges, and recreation areas, which attracts visitors for recreation and to experience the outdoors. Additionally, it is within 25 miles of dense urban populations in Washington D.C., Fairfax, and Prince William counties. As early as 1981, citizen groups, Fairfax County, and other stakeholders began working to complete Mason Neck Trail (MNT), a paved, shared-use path stretching from Route I to the Joseph V. Gartlan Great Marsh Trail (GMT) on Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Currently, only two of four segments have been built: segments 2 and 3. Segment 1 was already allocated FY 2020-2025 funding by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, leaving Segment 4 as the last segment in need of funding. The project to complete Segment 4 is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would provide a critical connection through this park, thus improving public infrastructure, accessibility to the park, and safety. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b)(7).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress