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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
TASKING PROFILE

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**Addressee:** Dirk Kempthorne

**From:** Cardin, Benjamin L./Warner, John/Mikulski, Barbara A./Webb, Jim  
United States Senate  
Washington,  
DC 20510

**Subject Text:** Four senators from the U.S. Congress urges the NPS to allocate \$1.5 million for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program and to transfer the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network from the Statutory Aid acct to Operations of the NPSystem.

**Required Surnames:** OCL

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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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January 24, 2007

OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

We are writing to ask your help in ensuring the swift and effective implementation of the new Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail enacted in December and its coordination with the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Program.

Specifically, when the Fiscal 2007 Continuing Resolution is finally approved and signed into law, we urge you to allocate \$1.5 million for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program – the same level as appropriated in Fiscal 2006. The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network provides an ideal mechanism for supporting the development of the management plan for the Captain John Smith NHT and for assisting state and local efforts to enhance public education, visitor access, and stewardship of the many Smith-related sites in the Bay region. As you may be aware, P.L. 109-418 establishing the Smith NHT requires that the trail “be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in coordination with the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network ...and the Chesapeake Bay Program.” Funding through the Gateways Program has already made possible production of the book *John Smith's Chesapeake Voyages 1607 – 1609* and several site-based projects. However, continuing funding is needed in Fiscal 2007 to support the management plan and to begin implementing such activities as: welcome and visitor center exhibits orienting visitors to John Smith programming; expanded interpretation of 17<sup>th</sup> century Native American culture; water and land access improvements and connections between the John Smith water trail and overland driving routes; and regional marking of Smith-related events and Gateways, among other things.

Second we urge you to transfer the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network from the Statutory Aid account to Operations of the National Park System (ONPS). This transfer makes administrative sense since the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Project Office, which manages both the Gateways Network and the John Smith NHT, is already funded through the ONPS account. Likewise, in addition to National Park units, all National Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers and several heritage areas and other forms of assistance to non-Federally owned or managed entities are already funded by the ONPS account. It is our understanding that the Department of Interior has discretionary authority to make this transfer.

We greatly appreciate your attention to these requests and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,




Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



John Warner  
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Jim Webb  
United States Senator