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July 5, 2022

Board of Public Works
The Honorable Larry Hogan, Governor
The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Treasurer
The Honorable Peter Franchot, Comptroller

Dear Governor Hogan, Treasurer Davis, and Comptroller Franchot:

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for the proposed transfer of the Crownsville Hospital Center from the State of Maryland to Anne Arundel County. This transfer comes after decades of uncertainty regarding the use and future of this important ecological and historical property in the South River watershed.

The Crownsville Hospital Center sits at the headwaters of multiple stems of Bacon Ridge Branch, a stream, which itself serves as the headwaters of the South River. These streams are surrounded by patches of intact, riparian forests that connect to the nearby Bacon Ridge Natural Area and form a contiguous, 3-mile-long swath of trees from the headwater streams to the tidal waters of the South River. It is imperative that these types of riparian forests be preserved to protect the water quality of the South River and provide habitat to species seeking refuge in one of the largest remaining forests in our county. If transferred, the Arundel Rivers Federation will work with the County to ensure these resources are protected for all future generations.

Future plans for Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park include preserving the undeveloped portion of the property and establishing passive and low-impact uses such as trails. Over the long term, the County looks forward to the restoration of the historic core of the hospital grounds, to include a museum dedicated to interpreting the history of Crownsville Hospital and a memorial to honor the former patients interred on the property.

We look forward to seeing the revitalization of the deteriorated Crownsville Hospital Center and the protection of the site's environmental and historic resources, and urge your support of this important step in achieving that vision.

Sincerely,

Matt Johnston
Executive Director

Arundel Rivers was formed in January 2019 to combine the work and resources
of the South River Federation and West/Rhode Riverkeeper.
Arundel Rivers Federation, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3), non-profit organization and donations are
tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. EIN 52-2301464