

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 17, 2024

Mr. Matthew Wells  
Director  
Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
600 E. Main St., 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Wells,

We write to support the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund's State and Local Assistance Program (LWCF) for funding to acquire Oak Hill, the home of James Monroe, the 5<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. This application will aid the Commonwealth in acquiring a unique historic resource and providing an unparalleled historic and outdoor resource to the public.

The project will protect an over 1,100 acres of open space surrounding the historic property and provide context to the historic mansion itself. Additionally, the property will provide outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat along the more than two and a half miles of Little River that cross the property. Little River is a major tributary to Goose Creek, a drinking water supply for much or northern Virginia. A recreational asset of this size is unmatched in Northern Virginia and is needed to serve a growing population.

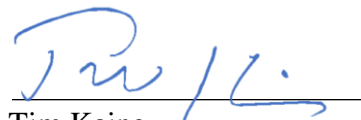
Oak Hill lies at the intersection of American history, at the historic Gilbert's Corner crossroads. Already listed as a National Historic Landmark, the property lies along and is a key feature of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area. While best known for the 1823 manor house built by President Monroe, the property has evidence of indigenous occupation that well predates Monroe's ownership. There are also stories to be told of the enslaved community as well as the development of agriculture in the region. If acquired, the Commonwealth will have the opportunity to share these stories with future generations of Americans.

This project will offer a unique opportunity to create public access to the property which has been in private ownership for generations. Moreover, it will contribute to the Commonwealth's nearly \$8 billion outdoor recreation economy, an essential driver to Virginia's tourism industry. If you have any questions regarding our support for the Oak Hill Project, please do not hesitate to reach out to our staff: Micah Barbour at [Micah\\_Barbour@warner.senate.gov](mailto:Micah_Barbour@warner.senate.gov); or Evan McWalters at [Evan\\_McWalters@kaine.senate.gov](mailto:Evan_McWalters@kaine.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Tim Kaine  
United States Senator