

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Young:

As you consider recommendations provided to you by the Public Buildings Reform Board under the Federal Asset Sales and Transfer Act, we write to express our support for an inter-agency transfer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the 105-acre parcel owned by the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Such a transfer would allow this parcel, also known as Area 400, to be added to the Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR), with lasting environmental benefits for future generations.

Located in Greenbelt, Maryland, Area 400 is a largely forested parcel that, protected in a natural state, contributes to the health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The headwaters of the Patuxent River and Anacostia River flow through the property. Conserved land filters pollutants out of these waters and, eventually, the Chesapeake Bay. Area 400 lies adjacent to the Patuxent Research Refuge (PRR), which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The PRR serves as vital habitat for more than 200 species of birds as well as other wildlife including turtles, foxes, beavers, and fish that is open to the public for outdoor recreation. Expanding the PRR by adding Area 400 makes ecological and economic sense and will support progress towards State and federal conservation goals.

We urge your support for a transfer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the most expedient manner possible, and we stand ready to work with you and offer any assistance that may be needed to achieve this goal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

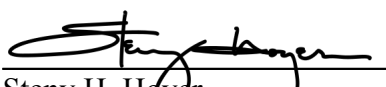
Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Bill Nelson, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
The Honorable Martha Williams, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service