



St. Mary's County Museum Division

Department of Recreation & Parks

Board of Charles County Commissioners
200 Baltimore Street
LaPlata, MD 20646

March 10, 2025

**St. Clement's Island
Museum**
**Piney Point Lighthouse
Museum &
Historic Park**
**Drayden
African American
Schoolhouse**
**The Old Jail Museum &
Leonardtwn Visitor
Center**

Commissioners,

I am writing to express my full support for the donation of land at 16816 Country Lane in Waldorf, Maryland, for the development of a Piscataway Conoy Cultural Center and Museum. I understand the property is located on an inactive missile area known as the Waldorf Nike Battery (aka Nike Site). This request is being made on behalf of the state-recognized Piscataway Conoy Tribe under the leadership of Chairman Francis Gray and the elected Piscataway Conoy Tribal Council.

Commissioners of St. Mary's County

James R. Guy, *President*
Michael R. Alderson, Jr.
Eric S. Colvin
Michael L. Hewitt
Scott R. Ostrow

This land donation will support the Piscataway Conoy tribal community's decades-long effort to preserve and protect the tribe's history, culture and heritage for future generations and will serve as a central location where they can share their tribal legacy with the public.

This land has been a historically cherished property, as the site of numerous cultural events and activities in the past and it holds great potential for the future by strengthening the cultural identity of the tribe and encouraging public awareness of the important historical lifeways of the Piscataway Conoy in the Southern Maryland region. Its intended use will bring significant benefits not only to the Piscataway Conoy but to all of the people of Southern Maryland by helping to preserve all of our shared history.

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I wholeheartedly support this generous act for the positive impact it will have on the preservation of this incredibly unique part of Maryland's history. By enhancing educational programs, promoting the economic benefits of heritage tourism in Southern Maryland, and fostering collaboration with neighboring communities, the proposed Piscataway Conoy Cultural Center and Museum will contribute to the region's growth and vitality.

Raymond E. Bivens
Department Director

As a partner organization, I am excited about the potential for this land donation and am hopeful for the bright future it will help create.

Karen E. Stone
Division Manager

Sincerely,

Karen E. Stone
Museum Division Manager
St. Mary's County, MD