**JUG BAY FIELD STATION LETTER CAMPAIGN**

**LETTER TEMPLATE**

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Councilmember, District \_\_\_\_\_\_

Anne Arundel County Council

P.O. Box 2700

Annapolis, Maryland 21404

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(citizen of Anne Arundel County and/or volunteer / regular visitor to Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary or member of the Friends of Jug Bay) I am enthusiastically writing in support of the project led by the Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks and partners to build the Jug Bay Field Station. A project of this significance could not be accomplished without the support of the County, and I urge you to please include it for funding as budget discussions take place.

Phase I of the Jug Bay Field Station is projected for construction between 2021-2023 through a grant of 949,000 dollars already obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Program of Land Acquisition and Construction, and a match of 300,000 dollars from Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks and 20,000 dollars from the Friends of Jug Bay. This funding will be used to develop the overall construction plan, and build the first phase of the Jug Bay Field Station, including five cabins and a bathhouse to allow for overnight accommodations. Funding is still needed to build a complete and fully functional Field Station, which will include a research laboratory, office space, meeting areas, and a kitchen.

The Jug Bay Field Station will be a multi-use space dedicated to serve the citizens of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay region, and beyond. It will be the first of its kind in the County and the second Field Station in all of Maryland. Located at Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, along the Patuxent River, it will provide access to one of the largest tidal freshwater marshes on the US East Coast as well as other important natural habitats and rich Native American history. The field station will be a living laboratory where researchers, citizen scientists, educators, students, volunteers, visitors, and the public can enjoy and participate in outdoor environmental education programs, research and monitoring efforts, and recreational activities.

I fully support the funding and establishment of the Jug Bay Field Station as I believe it will have a meaningful and sustainable impact for the County and the region, its people, and the environment. In addition to protecting valuable natural resources and providing a healthy and safe space for the enjoyment and appreciation of nature, it will support the advancement of research, outdoor environmental education, science-based land management, and environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,

**BRIEFING SHEET**

**Purpose of letter campaign**: Request to Anne Arundel County Executive (Steuart Pittman) and Council Members to include the construction of the Jug Bay Field Station on the County budget.

**Request to you**: There are two ways to support this effort:

1. Write a letter to the Anne Arundel County Executive AND your Council Member (see below for their names and addresses by district) to express your support for the inclusion of the Jug Bay Field Station in the County budget.
2. Participate in any of the public county budget discussions to express (personally) your support for the construction of the Jug Bay Field Station.

**Jug Bay Field Station Timeline:**

* Phase I (development of Master Plan for the project, construction of 5 cabins and a bathhouse) is projected to be completed by 2023. Cabins will have a capacity for 30 people.
* Phase II (no funding available yet) will include the building of research laboratory space, offices, meeting rooms, and kitchen (this is the additional funding being requested to the County).

**Current Project Support:**

* A 949,000-dollar grant from NOAA (with a 300K match from the AA County Department of Recreation and Parks) has been secured to build 5 cabins and a bathhouse (Phase I of the Jug Bay Field Station).
* A 300,000-dollar grant match provided by the AA County Department of Recreation and Parks to develop a Master Plan for the Field Station.
* A 20,000 dollar - contribution from the Friends of Jug Bay to furnish the cabins.
* Current partners and supporters for the building of the Jug Bay Field Station:
	+ Friends of Jug Bay - will lead meetings, conferences, events, etc.
	+ CBNERR-MD - (Maryland Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, of which we are a component) will conduct training and workshops with teachers at Jug Bay.
	+ Anne Arundel County Public Schools - will continue to bring students for outdoor environmental education programming.
	+ Washington College - will bring students for summer archaeology field programsAA County Cultural Division - Archaeologists will continue research efforts and support educational summer camps at Jug Bay.
	+ Patuxent River Park - as Jug Bay partners will use the field station for joint public and school programming.
	+ Anne Arundel Community College - will bring students for class field trips, etc.

**Field Station Relevance:**

* The only Field Station in Anne Arundel County and second in Maryland.
* Located in the Patuxent River Watershed, the longest river that completely flows within the state of Maryland, and in much need of study.
* Offer overnight facilities to researchers, educators, students, and the public.
* Provide access to an unique array of natural communities including one of the largest tidal freshwater marshes in the US East Coast, sand and pine barrens, vernal pools, etc. and a rich Native American history.
* Possess national relevance by being part of one of the components of the Maryland Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (CBNERR-MD).
* Located in a site recognized as an Important Bird Area by Maryland Audubon.
* Support one of the most unique citizen science and volunteer programs in Anne Arundel County and southern Maryland.
* Enhance 35 years of research, education, stewardship and volunteer activities conducted by Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and other environmental organizations.

**Who Would the Field Station Serve:** The citizens of Anne Arundel County, the Chesapeake Bay region, and beyond.

**What we hope to offer once the Field Station is Built and Running:**

* Research and monitoring opportunities
* Graduate/undergraduate internships with accommodations
* Professional trainings, workshops, meetings and conferences
* Staff retreats
* Volunteer, stewardship, and citizen science opportunities
* Outdoor environmental education programs
* Summer camps
* Public recreational programs
* Overnight accommodations (camping and cabins)

For more information please contact Tor Bjerknes at tbjerkne@friendsofjugbay.org

**Contact Information for Anne Arundel County Executive**

STEUART L. PITTMAN, Jr., County Executive

Office of County Executive

Arundel Center, 44 Calvert St., Annapolis, MD 21404 - 1831

(410) 222-1821

e-mail: spittman@aacounty.org

**Contact Information for Anne Arundel County Council Members by District**

**By email:**

District 1 - Sarah F. Lacey - slacey@aacounty.org

District 2 - Allison M. Pickard - allison.pickard@aacounty.org

District 3 - Nathan Volke - nathan.volke@aacounty.org

District 4 - Andrew Pruski - andrew.pruski@aacounty.org

District 5 - Amanda Fiedler - amanda.fiedler@aacounty.org

District 6 - Lisa D.B. Rodvien - lisa.rodvien@aacounty.org

District 7 - Jessica Haire - jessica.haire@aacounty.org

**By mail:**

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Councilmember, District \_\_\_\_\_\_

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