



NOW OR NEVER FOR THE MARINA!

Update from the Chestertown Waterfront Coalition

December 1, 2016

ACTION NEEDED BY DECEMBER 9

This fall more than 400 people wrote to Maryland Governor Hogan on behalf of the Town of Chestertown's \$1.5 million funding request to support the rehabilitation of the Town's waterfront and municipal marina. These letters made a huge impact.

Right now the Town's request is under consideration by the Governor's office along with hundreds of others. **The decision to fund the project will likely be made in the next 10 days.**

Chestertown's advisors in Annapolis are confident that the Town's request is being considered seriously but also tell us that capital funding is exceedingly competitive. **Success is far from assured.**

The days ahead are our last opportunity to advocate on behalf of the Town's request for funding to restore Chestertown's waterfront. Your voice will be critical to the effort's success.

There are two ways you can make a difference if you act TODAY:

- 1. Call the Governor's office at 410-974-3901 or 1-800-811-8336 and let the Governor know you support funding for Chestertown's Waterfront.** Don't be scared to do this. An assistant will answer the phone and all you need to do is tell them your name and that you are calling in support of the Town of Chestertown's Capital Budget Request for the Marina. Be nice!
- 2. Send a letter of support (or a copy of your previous letter of support) directly to the Governor's office at: Governor Larry Hogan, 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401** Its important the Governor knows you letter comes from a real person. Handwriting your envelope and signature helps!

To have an impact your call must be made (or your letter received) by December 9. We kid you not - it's do or die time and your support could be critical. Thank you!

See Reverse for Talking Points About the Revitalization of Chestertown's Waterfront

Talking Points

Your personal thoughts/feelings are always the best, but please feel free to use the points below in any call/letter you make/send to Governor Hogan.

- **Growing the Economy:** The annual regional annual economic impact of revitalizing the Chestertown Marina could be up to \$2.2 million in direct spending, representing a meaningful increase in tourism revenue for Chestertown and Kent County.
- **Supporting Jobs:** Dozens of jobs in Chestertown rely on the waterfront - jobs that could cease to exist if no action is taken to repair and restore the Chestertown Marina.
- **Creating Jobs:** A revitalized waterfront would drive land and water-based tourist traffic to Chestertown, increase economic activity in the historic district, and create up to 30 new jobs.
- **Strengthening Maryland as a Boating Destination:** A vibrant municipal marina in Chestertown will be an important addition to the State's recreational boating infrastructure, creating new recreational cruising options and attracting out-of-state boaters from Delaware, Pennsylvania, and the Mid-Atlantic region
- **Public Access:** Chestertown is the single largest public access point for boaters on the middle and upper Chester River. Restoring the waterfront will be essential to preserving this access point and the economic activity it generates.
- **Promoting Heritage Tourism:** Major heritage and eco-tourism events that depend on public water access include the Chestertown Tea Party and Chestertown Jazz Festival, the Downrigging Weekend Tall Ship Festival, and RiverFest depend on public water access. These events attract 20,000+ visitors and contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to the economy.
- **Preserving Chestertown's Identity:** Founded in 1706 as one of six original Royal Ports of Entry on the Chesapeake, Chestertown is recognized as one of the best preserved Colonial Ports in the United States. Maintaining a vital waterfront is critical to preserving the community's unique identity and culture.
- **Supporting a Broader Vision for Chestertown's Waterfront:** The revitalization of the Marina is part of a broader vision for Chestertown's waterfront that includes a new waterfront campus for Washington College, a public riverwalk, and art and performance spaces envisioned by the Town's Public Arts Master Plan. A restored Marina is critical to the success of this larger plan.
- **Protecting the Bay:** The re-designed Marina will include many features that will lessen the property's impact on the Chesapeake Bay. These features include a pervious parking lot that will absorb rainfall and reduce runoff, and multiple bio retention areas and pocket parks to capture storm water.