

— DESTINATION —
Southern Maryland

Testimony to House Appropriations Committee

Name: Lucille W. Walker, Executive Director
Organization: The Southern Maryland National Heritage Area (*Destination Southern Maryland*)
Issue: HB 677 – Pride of Baltimore II – Appropriations – Increase and Extension
Position: FAVORABLE

March 14, 2023

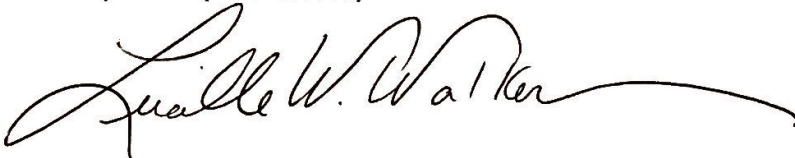
The Southern Maryland National Heritage Area (both a state and newly designated national heritage area) is in support of the Pride of Baltimore II's request for funding. We have had numerous opportunities to partner with this significant state resource, bringing to life the maritime, naval, and defense history of Maryland.

The Pride of Baltimore II has visited Southern Maryland and highlighted not only the War of 1812 within our shores, but also the complex history of enslavement and the self-emancipation of individuals to the British side during this time. Our organization has partnered with the Pride of Baltimore II and the National Park Service, to offer vital access to our constituents to this floating museum. Underserved and underrepresented members of our community, which often had limited access to our many shorelines and water experiences, were able to sail with the Pride II and experience a timelessness that only a tall ship can provide. These experiences came without cost to these individuals, organizations, and schools.

As home to the new Dove tall ship, another unique ambassador of our Maryland History, Southern Maryland has appreciated the support given by the sister tall ship of the Pride of Baltimore II, as both ships represent two distinct eras and interpretations of our great state. Taken together, these ships offer Maryland citizens and visitors alike a lived-in heritage experience, vital water access, and support of historic, cultural and conservation efforts.

It is our pleasure to support the continued funding of this unique resource for our state. We all benefit from their work. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucille W. Walker
Executive Director

The Southern Maryland National Heritage Area

Destination Southern Maryland