



March 5, 2024

Honorable Tom Tiffany, Chairman
Honorable Joe Neguse, Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee, Federal Lands Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 1584, Plum Island National Monument Act

Dear Chairman Tiffany and Ranking Member Neguse:

The Preserve Plum Island Coalition (PPIC) is comprised of more than 120 national, regional, and local organizations, whose collective membership totals several million members, united by the goal of permanently preserving Plum Island, New York. Members support the PPIC mission, which is to secure the permanent protection of the significant natural, historical, and cultural resources of Plum Island. Plum Island is a federally owned gem, boasting 24 ecological communities and high biodiversity, including 229 species of birds. It offers opportunities to educate the public about American history, the cultural heritage, and nature. It lies at the confluence of two National Estuaries – Long Island Sound and the Peconic Estuary.

The PPIC advocates for comprehensive conservation and management solutions that safeguard this national treasure in the public trust as a national monument, wildlife refuge, preserve, or other equivalent protection, with carefully managed and equitable public access, in perpetuity.

As members of the Steering Committee of the PPIC, we write to express to you our strong support for the passage of H.R. 1584, the “Plum Island National Monument Act” sponsored by Representative Nicholas LaLota (1st Congressional District-NY), designating Plum Island a national monument for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation, and the discovery and celebration of our shared cultural heritage. Specifically, this important legislation will ensure the permanent protection of the highly significant ecological, historical, and cultural resources found on Plum Island, through its dedication as a national monument under the management of the Department of Interior.

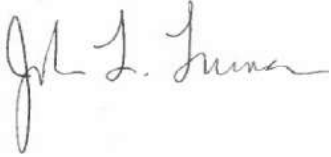
To this end, we are most appreciative of your consideration of H.R. 1584, through the hearing of the Federal Lands Subcommittee designed to receive input on this legislative initiative. We thank Representative LaLota for his introduction of the bill and thank the bill’s co-sponsors: Representatives Courtney, Garbarino, Himes, D’Esposito, and Lawler. We strongly support its adoption, designating Plum Island a national monument *for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation, and the discovery and celebration of our shared cultural heritage.*

Achieving Plum Island’s permanent protection is a goal supported by elected officials at all levels of government. In addition to federal support, many Long Island members of the New York State Senate and Assembly, the entire 18-member Suffolk County Legislature, and the Supervisor and other members of the Southold Town Board (within whose town Plum Island is situated), have strongly supported the permanent protection of this nationally significant, federally owned asset. Widespread support for preserving Plum Island can be seen in a compilation of letters from elected officials, organizations, and citizens, along with

editorials, articles, and media productions, in a volume we posted to www.preserveplumisland.org/campaign-support last fall.

We hope to work with your Subcommittee and Representative LaLota's office in achieving this outcome. Please consider the PPIC to be a resource to you and your staff if you have any questions concerning the resources of Plum Island, past and current efforts to protect it, and discussions various PPIC members have had with governmental agencies and stakeholders regarding the same.

Sincerely,



John Turner, Spokesperson
Preserve Plum Island Coalition

Members of the PPIC Steering Committee:

John Turner, *Spokesperson*

Louise Harrison, *Save the Sound*

Leah Lopez Schmalz, *Save the Sound*

Denise Stranko, *Save the Sound*

Drianne Benner, *Orient Association*

Gordon Bliss, *Coast Defense Study Group*

Sandi Brewster-walker, *Montaukett Indian Nation*

Yvette DeBow-Salsedo, *Peconic Land Trust*

Robert DeLuca, *Group for the East End*

Adrienne Esposito, *Citizens Campaign for the Environment*

Jane Fasullo, *Sierra Club Long Island Group*

Robert LaFrance, *Audubon Connecticut*

Nicole Layman, *The Wilderness Society*

Mark Levine, *Orient Association*

Marian Lindberg, *The Nature Conservancy in New York*

Vanessa Lockel, *Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County*

Erin McGrath, *Audubon New York*

Anne Murray, *North Fork Environmental Council*

Francis O'Shea, *Trust for Public Land*

Casey Petrashek, *New York League of Conservation Voters*

David Reisfield, *Friends of Plum Island*

Richard Remmer, *Friends of Plum Island and Parks & Trails NY*

Rebecca Rubin, *Nature First Consulting, LLC*

Cc: Honorable Bruce Westerman, Chairman, Natural Resources Committee
Honorable Nicholas LaLota, Representative, 1st District – NY
Honorable Joe Courtney, Representative, 2nd District – CT
Honorable Andrew R. Garbarino, Representative, 2nd District – NY
Honorable James A. Himes, Representative, 4th District – CT
Honorable Michael Lawler, Representative, 17th District – NY

Att: Members of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition

Members of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition

American Birding Association	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County	The Ink Spot Southold
American Bird Conservancy	Defend H2O	InnerSpace Scientific Diving
American Littoral Society, Northeast Chapter	East End Apiaries	Island Outreach Foundation
Andrew Sabin Family Foundation	East End Lighthouses	Long Island Audubon Council
Archipelago New York	East End Seaport Museum & Marine Foundation	Eastern Long Island Audubon
Asharoken Garden Club	Eastern Long Island Chapter of Surfrider Foundation	Great South Bay Audubon
Audubon Connecticut	East Hampton Town Natural Resources Department	Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon
Audubon New York	East Marion Community Association	Four Harbors Audubon
The Captain's Table Charters	Endangered Species Coalition	North Shore Audubon
Central New York Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology	Environment East - Peconic	North Fork Audubon
Citizen's Campaign for the Environment	Environmental Defense Fund	South Shore Audubon
Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor	Finker Wellness, Inc.	Long Island Botanical Society
Coast Defense Study Group	Fishers Island Conservancy	Long Island Environmental Voters Forum
Coastal Research and Education Society of L.I.	Fishers Island Oyster Farm	Long Island Forest Walks
Coastal Steward Long Island	Footprints In The Water, LLC	Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference
Concerned Citizens of Montauk	Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast	Long Island Greenways and Healthy Trails
The Connecticut Audubon Society	Friends of Plum Island	Long Island Indigenous People Museum & Research Institute
Connecticut - Rhode Island Coastal Fly Fishers	The Garden Club of East Hampton	Long Island Nature Organization
Connecticut Land Conservation Council	Gourmet Foods International	Long Island Paddlers
Connecticut Ornithological Association	Group for the East End	Long Island Pine Barrens Society
Conservation & Natural Areas Planning	Great Gull Island Project	Long Island Soundkeeper
	Henry L. Ferguson Museum - Fishers Island	Mattabesek Audubon Society
	Huntington Lighthouse Preservation Society	Mattituck-Laurel Civic Association
		Menunkatuck Audubon Society

Montaukett Indian Nation	Old Saybrook Land Trust	Sierra Club, New York City Group
Mystic Aquarium	Operation SPLASH	Southold Indian Museum
Narrow River LLC	Orient Association	Southold Town Historic Preservation Commission
Nassau Hiking and Outdoor Club	Park & Trails New York	StoneRidge Conservation Committee
The Nature Conservancy on Long Island	Potapaug Audubon Society	Suffolk County Legislator Steven Englebright
The Nature Conservancy - Connecticut	Randall T. Parsons AICP	The Trust for Public Land
The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island	Peconic Baykeeper	Third House Nature Center
New London Maritime Society	Peconic Land Trust	Three Village Community Trust
New York City Audubon	Preservation Long Island	Treiber Farms
New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV)	Quality Parks	Trimble's of Corchaug Nursery
New York Sailing Club	Queens County Bird Club	United States Lighthouse Society
New York Section of the International Dark Sky Association	Quogue Wildlife Refuge	WATERWASH Projects
New York State Ornithological Association	Regional Plan Association	Westbrook Land Conservation Trust
New York State Marine Education Association	Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association	Whaling Museum and Education Center of Cold Spring Harbor
Northeast Sisters of Mercy/Associates, Bridgeport CT Coalition	Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation	Wild Bird Crossing of Bridgehampton
North Fork Environmental Council	The Safina Center	Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset
North Shore Land Alliance	Save the Bay - RI	Wildlife Conservation Society
Norwalk River Watershed Association	Save Mattituck Inlet	
	Save the Sound	
	Seatuck Environmental Association	
	Setauket Harbor Task Force	
	Sierra Club - Connecticut Chapter	
	Sierra Club, Long Island Group	