

Date: February 20, 2023

To: Joshua Kurtz, Secretary of the MD Department of Natural Resources

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From: CCA Conservation Committee, conservation@canoecruisers.org

Subject: Upper Youghiogheny Hiker/Biker Trail

Secretary Kurtz,

As the conservation co-chairs for the Canoe & Kayak Cruisers Association of Metropolitan Washington DC and Montgomery County, MD residents, we are writing in favor of preserving the Upper Youghiogheny River as a wild and scenic river. The Canoe Cruisers Association(CCA) has many members in Montgomery, Frederick and other counties in Maryland who enjoy paddling the Upper Yough. The proposed hiker/biker trail will disturb the restored ecology of the Upper Yough. Proposed bridges will impede rafting and kayaking along the river, and a hardscape trail will increase impervious surface in an area that should remain forest.

The Upper Yough was designated a "Wild and Scenic River" in 1976. There was a desire to restore and preserve rivers from further environmental degradation. If the proposed hiker/biker trail goes forward, Maryland will be going in the opposite direction. Therefore we strongly urge your support in halting this project.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dianne Whitaker and Kathleen Sengstock

Conservation Committee Co-Chairs

Canoe and Kayak Cruisers Association of Metro DC

