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Director Charles Sams National Park Service 1849 C Street NW Washington, DC 20240

Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2024

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Dear Director Sams:

I am writing in support of Cleveland Metroparks's application to the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program for the acquisition of a key property on the Cuyahoga River.

This project seeks the transformation of the industrial property into a beautiful public green space as part of the Park District's land. The Cleveland Metroparks maintains safe and clean parks, and I do not doubt that they will continue to uphold their high standards with this new space. We greatly benefit from the services that the Park District provides in Ohio's 11th District. I am excited to see the positive impact this project will have on the community.

The conversion of industrial property into green space adjacent to Wendy Park along the Cuyahoga Riverfront will be incredibly beneficial for all nearby residents, especially those in public housing. The nearby communities include residents from the Ohio City and Tremont neighborhoods and Lakeview Estate, which is a housing development owned by the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority. The property, which will offer a paved trail, open green space, and stunning views of the Cuyahoga River, is conveniently located, allowing residents from Lakeview Estates to access it on foot. This new public parkland is particularly valuable to the Lakeview Estates community as the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool from the Council on Environmental Quality indicates that this neighborhood is ranked in the 91st percentile for greenspace scarcity. This proposal will not only add to the beautification of the Cuyahoga River but address a real need for our community.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal that will positively impact our region. I respectfully request that the Cleveland Metroparks's proposal be given careful review and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shontel M. Brown Member of Congress