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STRATEGIC COMPETITION BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND THE
CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

March 11, 2024

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

Dear Director Sams:

I am writing in support of Cleveland Metroparks's application to the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) through the National Park Service for the acquisition and development of Irishtown Bend Park—a future 25-acre riverfront greenspace in the heart of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Irishtown Bend Hillside has been gradually sliding into the Cuyahoga River for over 40 years. To prevent a disastrous collapse into the river the Port of Cleveland has been working on a stabilization project which is expected to be completed by 2025. The Port's project not only ensures the safety of the neighborhood but also presents a unique opportunity to create new public green space for the people of Cleveland.

The Cleveland Metroparks Irishtown Bend Park proposal will seek to use land that is available for green space development. The land along the Irishtown Bend has been secured for greenspace use indefinitely thanks to a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Clean Ohio program. Cleveland Metroparks, LAND studio, Ohio City Inc., and others are partnering to raise \$45 million for the construction of Irishtown Bend Park, which will provide new greenspace and recreational opportunities for Cleveland residents. The park will also serve as the last quarter mile in over 101 miles of trails that extend from the Cuyahoga National Park to Lake Erie.

This project uses an inclusive approach to public space planning to ensure that the park will meet the needs and desires of all Cleveland residents. Residents are a crucial aspect of the project, providing input into the park's design. Many amenities, such as universally accessible play spaces, picnic areas, and adult fitness areas, were a direct result of feedback from those who live closest to the park.

Thank you for your attention to this important proposal that will greatly benefit our region. Not only will it provide a chance for the citizens of the neighborhoods surrounding the Irishtown Bend to engage in exceptional recreational activities but it also connects two of our nation's greatest national resources, the Cuyahoga National Park and the Lake Erie. I respectfully request that the Cleveland Metroparks's proposal be given careful review and consideration.

Sincerely,



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress