

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2002

December 12, 2002

Dear Friends:

I regret that I cannot personally join in today's celebration of the Patuxent River restoration plan stemming from the Chalk Point oil spill.

Today's announcement of \$2.7 million in restoration projects represents an important step forward in the effort to undo the damage that was done to the Patuxent River and its natural resources as a result of the April 2000 spill. Through an effective partnership between the local, state and federal governments and concerned citizens, we've made tremendous progress in the past two years in cleaning up the leaked oil. By creating oyster reefs and new habitat for fish and wildlife, and providing new recreational access to the river, this plan will help remediate the environmental and economic harm of the spill. Combined with other efforts underway to restore the water quality of the Patuxent, it is my hope that this ceremony will bring us closer to the day when Bernie Fowler can walk out into the river, up to his shoulders, and look down through the clear waters to see not only his sneakers, but abundant fish, plants and oysters.

I want to commend all those who worked so hard to make this celebration possible and extend my best wishes on this important occasion.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Paul Sarbanes
United States Senator

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