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503 Sophia St. Suite 100 | Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401
Phone: (540) 907-4460 | www.americancanoe.org



March 20, 2019

The Cuyahoga River Water Trail Partners
c/o Ms. Andrea Irland, National Park Service
1664 W. Main Street
Peninsula, OH 44264
info@cuyahogariverwatertrail.org

RE: Cuyahoga River Proposed Water Trails Network

Dear Ms. Irland,

In March of 2018, the American Canoe Association (ACA) wrote in support of a grant application submitted on behalf of the Cuyahoga River Water Trail Partners for funding from the George Gund Foundation for the development and implementation of the Cuyahoga River Water Trail (CRWT). We are pleased to once again offer support for the application to designate the Cuyahoga River Water Trail as an Ohio State Designated Water Trail. Founded in 1880, the American Canoe Association (ACA) is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public. Stewardship support to help protect paddling environments is part of our core mission.

The State of Ohio Water Trail Designation will be one of the crowning achievements toward the restoration of the Cuyahoga River, emblematic of how far Ohio has come since the dark days of burning rivers and environmental degradation. Increased access to paddling resources in Ohio makes the community and region healthier and more vibrant.

The Cuyahoga River Water Trail is a vital means of connecting people in northeast Ohio to the natural resources and ever improving greenspaces, natural corridors, trail systems, scenic views and critical natural areas. We wholeheartedly support the application for Cuyahoga River State Water Trail Designation as a strategy to enhance paddling opportunities, and the ecological improvement of the Cuyahoga River and its entire watershed.

Sincerely,

Brett Mayer
Public Policy Chief
bmayer@americancanoe.org
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