

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislator Al Krupski

1st District



Committees

Public Works, Transportation & Energy
Environmental, Planning & Agriculture
Budget & Finance

Boards & Commissions

Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board
Farmland Committee
Environment Trust Review Board (ETRB)
Soil & Water Conservation District

August 17, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Preservation of Plum Island, New York

Dear President Biden,

We, the undersigned members of the Suffolk County Legislature, respectfully request you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to declare Plum Island a National Monument for the purpose of ecological conservation, historical preservation, and the discovery and celebration of our shared cultural heritage.

This history includes that of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), named for the island off the tip of eastern Long Island where it is located. PIADC, a world-renowned research laboratory, has served our country well by helping to protect America's food supply since its inception in 1954. We are proud to have had such an important institution located in Suffolk County for so many decades.

But now that the operations conducted at PIADC will be moved to a new facility in Manhattan, Kansas, a unique opportunity presents itself to preserve Plum Island for the benefit of generations to come. We join the Preserve Plum Island Coalition (PPIC), a consortium of 120 organizations and advocates, other elected officials, and many residents of Suffolk County in this request.

Plum Island's many assets are certainly worthy of protection. Notably, the Island is rich in the history of Indigenous peoples. In addition to the historic work done at PIADC, the Plum Island Lighthouse and Fort Terry (which played roles in both the Revolutionary War and WWII), are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Plum Island and its surrounding waters contain federally significant ecological resources and natural communities, including maritime shrubland and successional maritime forest, which

support numerous species. It hosts one of the largest seal haul-out areas in southern New England. Endangered and rare species, and nearly one quarter of all bird species in North America, north of Mexico, have been documented there.

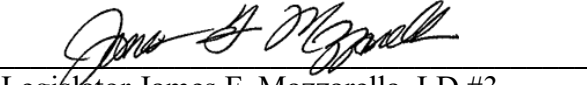
Designating Plum Island as a National Monument is consistent with the guiding principles of your *America the Beautiful* initiative. Again, we urge you to take advantage of this unique opportunity by preserving this important place, and writing a new chapter in the history of Plum Island, and our Nation.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

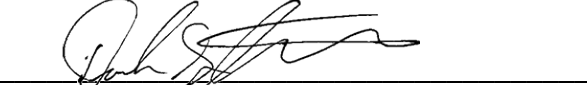
Sincerely,


Legislator Al Krupski, LD #1


Steven J. Flotteon, Deputy Presiding Officer
LD #11

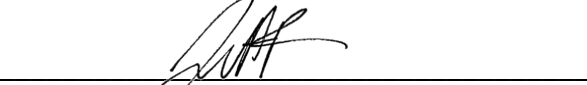

Legislator James F. Mazzarella, LD #3

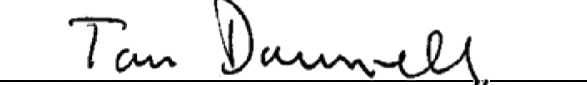

Legislator Kara Hahn, LD #5

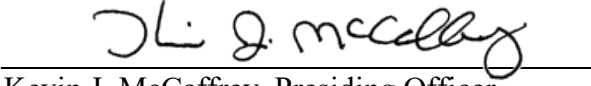

Legislator Dominick S. Thorne, LD #7


Legislator Samuel Gonzalez, LD #9



Legislator Leslie Kennedy, LD #12

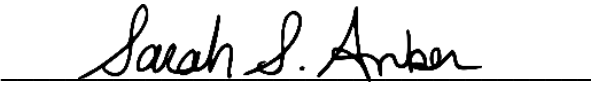

Legislator Jason A. Richberg, LD #15



Legislator Tom Donnelly, LD #17


Kevin J. McCaffrey, Presiding Officer
LD #14


Legislator Bridget Fleming, LD #2


Legislator Nicholas J. Caracappa, LD #4


Legislator Sarah S. Anker, LD #6


Legislator Anthony Piccirillo, LD #8


Legislator Trish Bergin, LD #10


Legislator Robert Trotta, LD #13


Legislator Manuel Esteban Sr., LD #16


Legislator Stephanie Bontempi, LD #18