

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Charles “Chuck” Sams
Director, U.S. National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Support for “Virginia Battlefields Multicultural Resource Study”

Dear Director Sams:

This letter is to express our support for the American Battlefield Trust’s proposed project “Virginia Battlefields Multicultural Resource Study” as the subject of a federal Battlefield Preservation Planning Grant application.

The multicultural nature and multiethnic participation in America’s wars is not widely known. Documenting and mapping multicultural resources lying within federally designated battlefield boundaries constitutes an important expansion of the Trust’s work to preserve and interpret American battlefields. Documenting the places that embody the complex layers of our history and identifying the layers of contributing features present on battlefield lands will facilitate preservation of these historic places, draw attention to under-studied Native American and African American stories, and help to paint a complete and more expansive picture of the rich history of the Commonwealth.

It is our understanding that the Trust intends to engage with tribes and African American cultural resource institutions to benefit from their counsel and perspective. We support that outreach and believe it to be essential in order to tell the full story of multicultural resources present across Virginia’s battlefields.

Please accept this letter of recommendation as an indication of our support for this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator



Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator

cc. Christine Arato, Program Manager
American Battlefield Protection Program