



July 19th, 2017

Dear Congresswoman Norton,

Recently, the Secret Service requested that the United States Coast Guard establish a temporary security zone on the Potomac River bordering the Trump National golf course during times that the President and other high-ranking government officials are using the course to play golf, or the facilities of Trump National for other events. The security zone includes all navigable waters of the Potomac River, from shoreline to shoreline, within an area bounded on the east by a line connecting the following points: latitude 39°04'02" W., longitude 077°19'48" W., thence south to latitude 39°03'39" W., longitude 077°20'02" W., and bounded on the west by longitude 077°22'06" W., located in Montgomery County, MD. The periodic establishment of the temporary security zone has caused quite a stir in the recreational paddling community because it impedes access to the Potomac River at an important location.

The American Canoe Association, established in 1880, as the current oldest and largest paddle sports organization in the United States, advocates for paddler access, education, stewardship, exploration, and competition. In this particular situation, the ACA honors the need for the Secret Service to protect the Executive Branch, but also recognizes the challenges the occasional and temporary access point closure may present to the paddling community. The ACA intends to submit an official comment through the process created by the United States Coast Guard during the comment period which closes August 9th, and in the event that there is a temporary closure will advocate for temporary modified egress and access for recreational paddlers along the Maryland shoreline at Riley's Lock based upon the initial latitude and longitude coordinates for the secure zone presented by the Coast Guard. The ACA recognizes that these closures are likely infrequent and sporadic, and hopes that in the case there is an impact on local outfitters or the recreational community, that the Coast Guard is willing to work within reason to ensure that the impediment to public access is brief and non-intrusive.



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We are reaching out to you directly because you are the delegate for the House of Representatives representing the District of Columbia, and a standing member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation subcommittee. In the possibility that there is a chance to work with the United States Coast Guard to develop a solution that allows recreational paddlers access to the Potomac River at this location during times of temporary closure, the American Canoe Association is ready and willing to be a collaborative partner in this process.

Sincerely,
Brett Mayer
Public Policy Chief
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