

**DRAFT**

**RESOLUTION**

**PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR THE CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE  
NATIONAL HISTORIC WATER TRAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

**WHEREAS**, the Arlington County Board, in partnership with the Arlington County Committee on Jamestown 2007 desires to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the English settlement of America and Captain John Smith's monumental voyages of exploration in the Chesapeake Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, Captain Smith's exploration of the lower Chesapeake Bay and tributaries comprised a significant portion of his voyages in 1608 -- Smith explored and mapped the lower Chesapeake region, met and traded with Virginia Indians along the way, and traveled to many of our region's present day towns and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, at the time of Captain Smith's arrival, the lower Chesapeake Bay was home to a substantial population of Virginia Indians whose knowledge and trade goods were essential to the survival of the English settlement at Jamestown; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the leadership of Representative James Moran, Senator John Warner and Senator George Allen, the U.S. Congress passed legislation authorizing the National Park Service to study the feasibility of establishing the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail as a unit of the National Trail System; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Park Service is currently conducting the trail feasibility study; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2006, Senators Paul Sarbanes and John Warner announced plans to introduce legislation to formally create the "Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail"; and

**WHEREAS**, our community's historic and recreational resources generate significant economic revenue from heritage tourism, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail would make an important new addition to these resources; and

**WHEREAS**, The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail would provide an excellent opportunity for the public to learn about Virginia Indian history, early English settlement, as well as the tributary rivers to the Chesapeake Bay;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Arlington County Board, in cooperation with the Arlington County Committee on Jamestown 2007, pledges its support for the National Park Service's Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail feasibility study and the introduction of legislation for formal creation of the Trail; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Arlington County Board directs the Clerk to the County Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, Members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation, and the Governor of Virginia.