

## **Voices Supportive of Lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security For Illegally Restricting Access to Potomac River**

**Montgomery Countryside Alliance** - Caroline Taylor, Executive Director

"Keeping access to the Potomac River open is critically important to the millions of people who live throughout this iconic watershed. We applaud this effort to require the Trump Administration to conduct an open public process to ensure the Potomac River community's voice is heard."

**American Whitewater** - Kevin Colburn, National Stewardship Director

"Blocking legal access to this special portion of the Potomac River without providing a transparent process for those who care for and paddle it is simply wrong. We support this effort to restore the basic rights of Americans to enjoy one of our Nation's treasured public rivers."

**Potomac Riverkeeper Network** - Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper

"Potomac Riverkeeper supports Canoe Cruisers' action challenging the Coast Guard's decision to prohibit the public from recreating on a very popular stretch of the Potomac without following the procedures required by law. The Coast Guard can both ensure that the President's security needs are fully met and uphold the inherent rights of the public to access and recreate on the Potomac, the Nation's River."

**Calleva** - Matt Markoff, Director

"This restriction has been very difficult for our organization and has cut access to areas where we teach students how to learn to kayak, canoe, and paddle board. We support and understand the need for Presidential security, but we also believe that there is room to meet those security needs fully while also preserving the river community's legal right to access and safely use the river. We applaud this effort to raise these concerns, and hope that they will be heard."

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*On September 20, 2018, the [Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, DC](#), represented by [Democracy Forward](#), filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for restricting river access without proper notice or public input. For press inquiries about this lawsuit please contact [Charisma Troiano](#). For other inquiries about this lawsuit or other Democracy Forward efforts, please contact [Megan Uzzell](#).*

