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August 31, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

I write today to urge your strong support in the preservation and conservation of Plum Island. Plum Island is an environmental, cultural, and scientific treasure in the Long Island Sound. I applaud your administration's conservation efforts to date and hope to work with you on the permanent protection of Plum Island to ensure its lasting legacy for generations to come.


Plum Island is a national treasure that deeply deserves permanent protection. It is home to several endangered and vulnerable species – such as the piping plover and roseate tern – and rare plant life. It also holds cultural significance, boasting two locations on the National Register of Historic Places: the Plum Island Lighthouse and the Fort Terry Historic District. The island's pristine and undeveloped landscape and historic significance are too important to sacrifice.

The climate and biodiversity crises present dire threats to our nation's health and prosperity that require bold conservation solutions. In April, I joined Majority Leader Schumer, Senator Gillibrand, and Senator Murphy in writing to Secretary Haaland, urging the U.S. Department of the Interior to support any measure that permanently preserves Plum Island – including a national monument designation under the Antiquities Act.

On August 22nd, I stood with environmental advocates across Long Island Sound from Plum Island where we discussed the urgent need to protect it from development. Therefore, I urge the White House to prioritize Plum Island and work with the Interior Department on an expedited process for permanent conservation of this great resource. The most readily available means to assure preservation would be to designate Plum Island as a national monument. Such action would be highly appropriate for this valuable, threatened national treasure, so it could be managed with environmental interests as a priority. There may well be other options which should be considered – the main point is urgent action is needed to assure preservation.

Permanent protection of Plum Island would help your administration reach its ambitious conservation goals. I look forward to continuing to work together to conserve our nation's priceless public lands and natural resources.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate