



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 25, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

As Governor of Maryland and chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, I write today to urge you to oppose devastating cuts to the Chesapeake Bay Program proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget and to boost federal funding for this vital restoration effort to \$90 million.

The Chesapeake Bay Program is a model for regional and national partnership and an important bellwether for the success of other major body of water restoration efforts around the country. It is our state's most precious resource, and a national treasure. That is why, since taking office, our administration has invested a record \$4 billion toward Chesapeake Bay restoration.

Today we stand at a critical juncture, with our goal of clean water by 2025 in sight. Increased federal support is key to sustaining the steady gains of recovery we are now seeing, and ensuring progress and success well into the future.

After three decades of collaboration with our partners, we are witnessing measured improvements toward clean water, improved Chesapeake Bay watershed resiliency to a changing climate, and the economic value of a healthier ecosystem. While we have made significant progress, there is still much to do to reach our collective goals. As this partnership quickly approaches its 2025 restoration milestone, continued funding is needed to support local government implementation programs, state-based implementation, and the continued monitoring and analyses that are central to measuring and directing our management and restoration actions. By increasing Chesapeake Bay funding, it would be possible to achieve significant progress in each of these areas. Furthermore, each federal dollar leverages even more state, local and private funding.

Maintaining strong federal support for the Chesapeake Bay Program, as well as the scientific and modeling framework that underpins the restoration effort, is essential to improving the waterway's health and ensuring that the federal government remains an integral part of coordinating such efforts. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler himself told the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last year that federal involvement in the Chesapeake Bay Program is a "high priority." We must hold the administration to this commitment.

I ask that Congress heed our call to action and preserve and increase the federal commitment to restoring this national treasure. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Director of Federal Relations Tiffany Waddell at tiffany.waddell@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor