

Governor Larry Hogan • Acting Chairman Guy Guzzone
Governor John Carney • Mayor Muriel Bowser
Governor Tom Wolf • Governor Ralph S. Northam • Governor Jim Justice

October 31, 2019

Chairman Richard Shelby
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Chairwoman Nita Lowey
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Kay Granger
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

As Members of the Executive Council of the Chesapeake Bay Program, we write today to urge you to adopt the House-passed funding level and report language related to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program. The Executive Council includes the governors of the six watershed states, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the administrator of the EPA responsible for guiding restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay.

The House-passed Interior Appropriations bill includes \$85 million for the EPA Bay program and directs a portion of that funding to state-based implementation in effective basins. It is critical that this funding level and spending directive be included in the final bill. Although we have made significant progress, we are still short of our Bay restoration goals. As this watershed partnership quickly approaches its 2025 deadlines, additional funding is needed. In addition to investments in best pollution reduction practices, previous investments in monitoring and analysis have provided us with an extremely accurate accounting of where pollution loads are heaviest. We must target our resources to those areas, otherwise known as effective basins, where we get the most bang for the buck.


We are at a critical juncture in Chesapeake Bay restoration with the goal of clean water in sight. After three decades of collaboration with our federal and jurisdiction partners, we are witnessing measured improvements toward clean water, increased resiliency and the economic value of a healthier ecosystem. The increased and targeted federal support included in the House-passed bill is critical to sustaining this progress and meeting our restoration goals at the 2025 deadline.

We know that you face many difficult choices in reconciling the House and Senate passed Interior Appropriations bills. The EPA Chesapeake Bay program has bipartisan, bicameral support and strong non-federal partners and investment from across the Bay watershed.

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For these reasons, we hope you will support funding the program at \$85M in the conference report, with the House report language.

Sincerely,



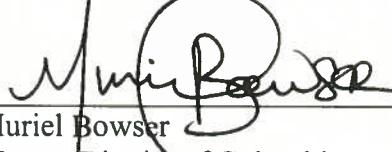
Larry Hogan
Governor, State of Maryland (EC Chair)




Guy Guzzone
Acting Chairman, Chesapeake Bay Commission



John Carney
Governor, State of Delaware



Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia



Tom Wolf
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Ralph S. Northam
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia



Jim Justice
Governor, State of West Virginia