



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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 continue to oppose detrimental cuts to the Chesapeake Bay Program proposed in the President's FY21 budget and to boost federal funding for this vital restoration effort to \$90.5 million. The president's recent budget proposal to once again reduce Chesapeake Bay Program funding—this time by 91%—imperils environmental and economic progress in a watershed with over 18 million people.

In Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay is at the heart of our region's culture and economy with value stemming from activities such as fishing, recreation, tourism, and waterborne commerce. Our administration has committed record investments in bay restoration—more than \$6 billion since I took office—but we are one state in a regional partnership that spans 64,000 square miles, and includes six other jurisdictions.

The administration's proposed cut to the Chesapeake Bay Program is short-sighted and in stark contrast to the strong commitments the United States has made to the Chesapeake Bay. Since 1983, congressional actions, executive orders, partnership agreements, a Clean Water Act Total Maximum Daily Load, public statements and actions by states, localities, and the private sector have fully supported the restoration of this national asset and treasure.

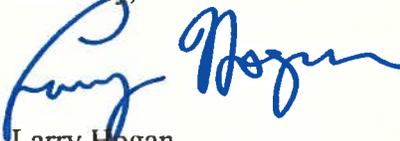
The Chesapeake Bay Program is a model of success, both nationally and globally, and provides the critical framework for achieving our goals and ensuring that everyone contributes to the restoration effort. Maintaining strong federal support for the Chesapeake Bay Program, as well as the scientific and modeling framework that underpins the effort, is essential to enhancing,

protecting and restoring the waterway's health and economic vitality of the region and nation. Through this collaboration with our federal, state and local partners, we are now witnessing real results, including cleaner water, more vibrant communities and healthier lands.

We stand at a critical juncture in Chesapeake Bay restoration with the goal of clean water in sight by the 2025 deadline. Now more than ever, we need your leadership to support the groundbreaking work being accomplished in the state, local, and private sectors.

I ask that Congress heed our call to action and increase the federal commitment to restoring the bay. 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

cc: Andrew Wheeler, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Cos Servidio, Region 3 Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dana Aunkst, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program
Senator Ben Cardin
Senator Chris Van Hollen
Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
Representative Andy Harris
Representative Dutch Ruppersberger
Representative John Sarbanes
Representative Anthony Brown
Representative David Trone
Representative Jamie Raskin