

Chesapeake Executive Council

Resolution to Support Local Government Engagement – 2016



AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2016, WHEREAS the Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage and a diversity of engaged citizens and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay watershed is home to more than 18 million people and more than 1,800 individual units of local government; and

WHEREAS, local governments are key partners in achieving our shared vision of an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed through close and active collaboration with state, federal and private entities; and

WHEREAS, through the collective efforts of federal, state and local governments, the wastewater sector achieved its Total Maximum Daily Load goal for 2025 nearly a decade ahead of schedule; and

WHEREAS, working cooperatively together will ensure better outcomes, as evidenced by the success in the wastewater sector; and

WHEREAS, citizens desire clean water in their local streams and rivers and local, state and federal elected officials are responsible to their constituents to help maintain the quality of life that clean water provides; and

WHEREAS, public awareness about the benefits of investing in watershed protection and restoration activities should be expanded so citizens and their local elected officials will be more likely to support the additional actions needed to meet the water quality goals for the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed; and

WHEREAS, current levels of public funding and private investment are insufficient to carry out conservation and restoration activities that achieve local healthy streams, rivers and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay, particularly activities that reduce pollutants from stormwater runoff and address the problem of recurrent flooding.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chesapeake Executive Council:

Commends the watershed's local governments and local utilities for taking the necessary steps, including raising billions of dollars, to make the modifications required to reduce the wastewater sector's pollutant discharges nearly a decade ahead of schedule. The Executive Council joins local governments across the watershed in celebrating this important success and highlights this effort as an example of what can be accomplished when multiple federal, state and local resources are aligned to achieve a specific goal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit to speak out on behalf of clean water and help raise awareness about the economic and environmental benefits of investing public funds in watershed protection and restoration efforts and the importance of taking action at the local level, through the production and distribution of Public Service Announcements, and the use of social media and other public venues as appropriate;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Principals' Staff Committee shall evaluate and pursue opportunities to increase public funding and private investment for local implementation of conservation and restoration activities that achieve local healthy streams, rivers and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay, particularly activities that reduce pollutants from stormwater runoff and address the problem of recurrent flooding.