



## ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries*

March 17, 2014

Chesapeake Bay Program  
410 Severn Avenue Suite 109  
Annapolis, MD 21403

As the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee, we would like to join the throngs who are calling upon the Chesapeake Bay Program to reinstate goals for toxic pollution reduction as part of the new draft Chesapeake Bay Agreement. It is inconceivable to us that at a time when the Anacostia, the Elizabeth River in Norfolk and other urban rivers are making real progress under the Clean Water Act and CERCLA to remove toxics, the Bay Program would be moving in reverse. The only explanation seems to be bureaucratic fear that some new and not completely understood sources of toxic pollution will emerge and be difficult or costly to deal with. This is hardly the expression of confidence that we have grown to expect from the Bay Program.

Here in the Anacostia, we are progressing on a multi-phased effort to reduce sources of toxicity in tidal areas from a range of sources including shoreline sites which once housed industrial activity, non-tidal upstream areas and re-suspended toxic sediments. This requires a sophisticated integration of Clean Water Act authorities under a revised toxics TMDL with a series of river bottom and streamside actions under CERCLA. We need the support and visibility that recognition under the Bay Agreement would provide for these activities.

Nor has it escaped us that there is an issue of equity and environmental justice underlying your final decision to include toxics. Failure to do so sends a strong message to cities dealing with legacy pollutants that their problems are less important than cleaning up the Bay for the enjoyment of those with property and access. While we support these overall efforts and pay for them with a sophisticated set of sewer and stormwater fees in all our jurisdictions, they alone are not the solution to a restored and sustainable watershed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

William Matuszeski, Chair

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