

**Summary: 145+ Letters on Chemical Contaminants from Maryland Pesticide Network Constituents**

*Note: Each of the signatories below submitted this letter on his or her own.*

March 2014

Dear Chesapeake Bay Program:

I am very concerned about the exclusion in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Agreement of toxic reduction goals, particularly at this time when toxic chemicals are linked to intersex fish, hermaphroditism in amphibians, alarming rates of bee hive deaths and a growing body of research linking toxic contaminants to increased rates of asthma, neurological and developmental impacts, cancer, autism and Parkinson's disease plus other long-term and even life-threatening impacts. Recent research links systemic neonicotinoid pesticides, already linked to bee hive deaths, to brain damage in children and adverse impacts on crabs.

The 2012 federal report Toxic Contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed found that current state programs and local toxic maximum daily load (TMDL) standards inadequately address the serious and pervasive contaminant data gaps.

We urge the CBP to fully implement the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration Executive Order 13508 mandate to establish toxic contaminant reduction goals. Toxic contaminants of concern include PCBs, PAHs, pesticides, mercury, pharmaceuticals and endocrine disruptors.

To minimize the importance of a clear and aggressive strategy for toxics as a priority in the Bay Agreement is to ignore the health and environmental threats that continue to escalate. I urge you to carry out the mandate of the Executive Order, respond to the 2012 report, and incorporate clear and specific strategies and toxic chemical reduction goals into the Agreement.

Sincerely,

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