STATE WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Julie A. Pippel
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March 13, 2014

Mr. Nicholas DiPasquale, Chair of the Management Board
and Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program,
US Environmental Protection Agency
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 112
Annapolis, MD 21403

RE: Review of the Draft Chesapeake Bay Agreement
by the State Water Quality Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. DiPasquale:

At its meeting on March 7, 2014, the State Water Quality Advisory Committee (SWQAC) voted to approve the letter being sent to you representing their collective comments as a result of Committee review of the January 29, 2014 final draft of the proposed Chesapeake Bay Agreement. We support the proposed agreement and recognize that adding the partner state of Delaware, New York and West Virginia will serve to strengthen the Agreement.

Our review of the draft agreement has identified the following comments that we would like to bring to your attention.

- **Page 4, Principles**
  We suggest that under "Anticipate changing conditions" add: "climate" after "temperature"

- **Page 5, Goals and Outcomes**
  There is a general concern among our members that the statement, "Signatories may decide to adjust their level of participation in the implementation of strategies as circumstances warrant" will be perceived to weaken and undermine the Agreement. We believe that a joint and sustained effort by all the Agreement parties will be required to achieve the stated 2025 goals. We suggest that you revise or delete this sentence.

- **Page 6, Sustainable Fisheries:**
  We suggest that after "habitat loss, poor water quality" you insert: "non-native and invasive species, and toxics."

- **Page 7, Vital Habitats, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence:**
  We suggest that after "Conserving healthy habitats and restoring the" insert: "connectivity and"

- **Page 7, Vital Habitats, Outcomes:**
  We suggest that an "Interior Forest Outcome" needs to be added.

- **Page 8, Healthy Watersheds:**
  We suggest that you delete "By 2025" after "Healthy Waters Outcome" and leave the following language: 100% of state–identified currently healthy water and watersheds remain healthy.

c/o Christine Thomas ♦ MDE/WMA ♦ 1800 Washington Boulevard ♦ Baltimore MD 21230
410-537-3524 or tollfree 1-800-633-6101 ♦ FAX 410-537-3553 ♦ Website: www.marylandwaterquality.org

- **Page 10, Environmental Literacy, 2nd Outcome (School and School System Model Development):**

  We suggest that after "Support and highlight models of sustainable schools and local education agencies that use system-wide approaches for environmental education" insert: "and curricula development."

We appreciate this opportunity to offer our comments and would be happy to discuss the recommendations with you or answer any questions that you may have.

Respectfully yours,

Julie A. Pippel
Chair

cc: The Honorable Joseph Gill, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
The Honorable Robert Summers, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment

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