



Citizens Advisory Committee

TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CHAIR
Paula Jasinski
Virginia

VICE CHAIR
Matthew Ehrhart
Pennsylvania

John Dawes
Pennsylvania

Andrew Der
Maryland

Bill Dickinson
Virginia

William Fink
Pennsylvania

Dale Gardner
Virginia

Mike Haire
Maryland

Verna Harrison
Maryland

Chris Karakul
Washington, DC

Julie Lawson
Washington, DC

Patricia Levin
Pennsylvania

Joseph Maroon
Virginia

Bill Matuszeski
Washington, DC

Jorge Ribas
Maryland

Charlie Stek
Maryland

Kendall Tyree
Virginia

Neil Wilkie
Maryland

September 29, 2017

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Chairman Chesapeake Executive Council
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Dear Governor Hogan,

Perhaps like you, the members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), depend upon the clear communication style and format of the *Bay Journal*. This is the only publication of its kind in our region, exploring key and emerging issues that impact the collaborative restoration the Chesapeake Bay in a very accessible, easy to understand manner. Citizens and professionals around the Chesapeake Bay watershed rely on the *Bay Journal* to stay informed.

CAC encourages you, as the Chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, to garner the support of the Bay States and DC in a request to the U.S. EPA to reinstate the federal support for the *Bay Journal* publication. We recently learned that after 25 years, the EPA decided a "shift of priorities" warrants the termination of a six-year grant after less than two years into the competitively awarded cooperative agreement. The federal support for the *Bay Journal* accounts for 40% of their budget and allows the *Bay Journal* Media nonprofit organization to leverage funding from other sources.

As the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement states, "The long-term success of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort will depend on local leadership- and local action that depends primarily on a strong citizen stewardship." The *Bay Journal* is a critical component to the Chesapeake Bay Partnership's communications and outreach to communities, schools, watershed organizations, and government agencies. It provides nearly 100,000 monthly readers (including on-line) with unbiased information on a broad range of issues as well as educates people about heritage and outdoor experiences in our region.

Each month, more than 4,000 copies are distributed to schools for classroom use and 6,000 copies are sent to libraries, nature centers, and other locations. There is no other source in our watershed for comprehensive and objective information on the progress of restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The stories, science, and successes reported in the *Bay Journal* not only inform, but also inspire.



Jessica M. Blackburn, CAC Coordinator
612 Hull Street, Suite 101C | Richmond, VA 23224 | (804)775-0953 | jblackburn@allianceforthebay.org |



As the Agreement notes, strong citizen stewardship is key to our success and the *Bay Journal* is an important and powerful tool in building that stewardship. The federal government has a role in supporting the citizens in their desire to learn and act on behalf of their local streams and rivers, as the health and vitality of people and communities is inseparable from the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

We respectfully request that you lead an effort on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Partnership to protect the *Bay Journal* and ensure that citizens will continue to benefit from this inarguably valuable resource. We thank you for all that you do on behalf of this incredibly important restoration effort.

Sincerely,

Paula Jasinski

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Jasinski".

Chair, Citizens' Advisory Committee

cc: Muriel Bower, Mayor of District of Columbia
John Carney, Governor of Delaware
Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York
Garth Everett, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Jim Justice, Governor of West Virginia
Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia
Tom Wolfe, Governor of Pennsylvania
Ben Grumbles, Maryland Secretary of the Environment
Nick DiPasquale, Director, USEPA Chesapeake Bay Program