



## Citizens Advisory Committee

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October 18, 2017

The Honorable Ben Grumbles  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of the Environment  
Montgomery Park Business Center  
1800 Washington Blvd  
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Secretary Grumbles,

On behalf of the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC), we wish to thank you for leading the Principals Staff Committee in an effort to increase Bay Watershed agricultural conservation funding in the 2018 Farm Bill. At our last quarterly meeting, CAC discussed the challenges that the agricultural community faces trying to balance the market demands of a viable farming operation while responsibly managing nutrients.

We recognize the progress farmers have made over the past couple of decades, but acknowledge that this sector has a heavy lift in the overall reduction of pollution in the watershed. As you know, the additional funding and technical assistance to our farmers will provide them with the boost they need to accelerate onsite conservation practices and result in the greater good of water quality improvements.

We believe a coordinated effort on behalf of the states to strengthen the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in the Farm Bill is an appropriate and forward thinking response to support our farmers, protect our agricultural assets, and restore waterways throughout our communities.

Thank you for your leadership on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

Paula Jasinski  
Chair, Citizens' Advisory Committee



Chesapeake Bay Program  
A Watershed Partnership

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