



## Citizens Advisory Committee

TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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December 20, 2018

The Honorable Ralph Northam  
Governor-Elect Commonwealth of Virginia

Dear Governor-Elect Northam,

On behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Chesapeake Executive Council, congratulations on your election to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Office of the Governor. We commend you on your record of commitment to environmental issues, including addressing climate change and sea level rise. CAC also recognizes the future First Lady's strong leadership on these issues and appreciate her continued voice on these issues. This letter is to introduce our committee and encourage you and your Cabinet Secretaries of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Forestry, and Education to make the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers a priority for your Administration.

The CAC is a broad-based citizens' organization appointed by the Governors of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, and the Board of Directors of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to advise the Chesapeake Bay Program on behalf of the interests of citizen stakeholders. Our membership is comprised of stakeholders and residents throughout the region who represent a wide range of perspectives, including agriculture, private business, nonprofits and environmental advocacy and communications.

For 33 years, we have provided a citizens' perspective and advice regarding the policies and programs of the state/federal Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership. Thus during these intervening decades we can attest to the measurable progress that has been made in cleaning the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, accomplished through the extraordinary partnership among citizens, businesses, and local, state and federal elected officials.

As Virginia Governor and as a member of the Chesapeake Executive Council, we hope that you and your appropriate cabinet leadership will continue Governor Terry McAuliffe's tradition to meet with the CAC leadership in advance of the Chesapeake Executive Council's annual meeting. By doing so, we can present you with our assessment and recommendations on the progress towards achieving the goals of the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. One thought we have is to either formally or informally convene either a Virginia Bay Cabinet similar to Maryland's structure or potentially a Virginia Conservation Cabinet to serve as a focal group on Virginia's environmental and/or Chesapeake Bay interests and

Jessica M. Blackburn, CAC Coordinator

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We look forward to working with you and your senior leadership in protecting the Commonwealth's environment and its bountiful natural resources. We will contact your Cabinet Secretaries to provide them with more details on CAC's priorities and how we can work together for the health of our waterways, our communities, and our national treasure- the Chesapeake Bay.

Welcome to office as Virginia's 73<sup>rd</sup> Governor.

Sincerely,



Paula Jasinski

Chair, Citizens' Advisory Committee

cc: Marianne Radcliff, Governor-Elect Northam Transition Director  
Preston Bryant, Governor-Elect Northam Policy Council on Natural Resources  
Bettina Ring, Governor-Elect Northam Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry  
Matt Strickler, Governor-Elect Northam Secretary of Natural Resources



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