

*The Chesapeake Bay Program has received the following letter from 99 stakeholders/Sierra Club members across the watershed.*

Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Nicholas DiPasquale  
410 Severn Avenue / Suite 112  
Annapolis, MD 21403

Dear Director, Chesapeake Bay Program DiPasquale,

We would like to thank the Chesapeake Bay Program's leadership on beginning the important work of adapting our waterways to climate change. Through including a climate resiliency goal in the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the partnership has taken a critical first step in advancing the integration of climate considerations into the restoration work of the partnership overall.

The management strategy to implement the climate resiliency goal is currently being developed by a number of talented technical and scientific experts. We applaud this effort, and believe that the strategy has come a long way from its initial draft. The draft is strong on many fronts, including gap analysis, the emphasis on stakeholder education and involvement.

We have a few recommendations for you to consider:

The drafters of the strategy aimed to write it in a manner accessible to the well-educated public. But greater clarification in a few areas is still needed, including in the section on baseline. Climate change complicates baseline considerations, and a brief, yet accessible, exploration of the significance of baseline for climate adaptation work would be desirable.

In addition, while the management strategy commits to the 'climate smart' framework as an approach to implementing the strategy, several of the steps lack specificity. We understand that the workgroup will also develop workplans for implementing the climate management strategy, which will include more detail. As written now, however, it is difficult to discern what commitments are being made. We recommend that the management strategy include a few numerical goals and targets.

For example, under Step 1, could the management strategy spell out the approximate number of opportunities for assessing efforts and lessons learned, at least three or at least five annually? As another example, we'd like to mention Step 4, which could use greater articulation of which type of decision-makers are being referred to here, and in which ways would decision-makers be informed on the tools, resources, data, etc.

With more detail and clarifying information, the climate resiliency management strategy will provide a convincing blue print for reaching the outcomes of the climate resiliency goal.

Thank you for your commitment for creating climate resiliency and integrating climate change into the work of the partnership.

Sincerely,

Christel Bel

Ben Kohl  
Ivano Battistella  
Curtis Robertson  
Jane Paulkovich  
J. Barry  
Amy Daugherty  
Doug Krause  
Trammell Maury  
Cheryl Ferendo  
Sheri Sagall  
Margaret Brewinski Isaacs  
Kevin Walsh  
Andriana Canning  
Ellen Barnes  
Peter Rowe  
Carol Dean  
Catherine Dooley  
Bryan Krantz  
Nora Cherubin  
Judy Jackson  
David Iancono  
Alissa Kircher  
Christine Elliott  
Janna Naylor  
Linda Mackencie  
Christine Shenot  
Hyo Song  
Denise Lochner  
Ferold Torchenot  
John Wolford  
T Hamboyan Harrison  
Kelly Allison  
David Hurley  
Jennifer Miller  
Patrick Timothy Caughy  
Cathy Burger  
Nicole Weber  
Stacey Wolfe  
Katherine White  
Cheryl Fahlman  
Yuki Yue  
Lisa White  
Barbara Roberts  
Marcus Frank  
Laird Lorenz  
Gayle Countryman-Mills  
Bruce Attavian

Gabrielle Fry  
John Martin  
Omar Siddique  
Dawn McBride  
Johanna Wermers  
Ravindra Agarwal  
Karan Hughes  
Christina Fraber  
Michael Phelps  
Patricia Soffen  
Robert Woods  
Zach Bowser  
Tracey Smallwood  
Marlie Dryden  
Nick Nichols  
Jessica Reynolds  
Cathy Burger  
Marsha Jenkins  
Nancy Lyon  
Kelvin Hobson  
Nitin Agarwal  
Gracinda Rodrigues  
Eric McKenzie  
Eileen Coffee  
Tara Huber  
Sean Dunn  
Anne Frederick  
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Lisa Capozzi  
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