

Greetings Chesapeake Bay Program,

I am Joseph Madison . I am writing to share my comments on the Chesapeake Bay Program's proposed Diversity Workplan. I am a resident of Howard County who is concerned about the lack of diversity in your organization and among its partners. Low diversity means few people have their voices heard and receive benefits. I want to change that by adding my comments to your Diversity Workplan.

Here are my comments for your consideration:

Increase the number of minority-owned contractors and businesses supported in your marketing and contracting. This also includes minority owned consulting companies. Provide an annual report on these numbers;

Increase the number of paid internships for minority students attending college, especially Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This kind of investment will help ensure future job applicant pools are filled with diverse and qualified candidates; and Increase your partnerships with the environmental justice community and organizations. There needs to be an intentional effort to include them every step of the way and facilitate an on going dialogue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joseph Madison