



Citizens Advisory Committee

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March 7, 2016

Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

On behalf of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) we urge you to act swiftly to fill the recently vacant position of Senior Advisor for the Chesapeake Watershed and Anacostia River with a suitable replacement.

Over the past seven years, since the position of Senior Advisor for the Chesapeake Watershed and Anacostia River was first created, members of the CAC and many citizens and organizations which we represent have worked closely with Senior Advisors Chuck Fox and his successor Jeff Corbin on a broad variety of issues. Both Chuck and Jeff have proved to be outstanding leaders playing key roles in advancing and coordinating all aspects of the Chesapeake Bay Program's watershed restoration efforts, ably representing the EPA and serving as liaison to other federal agencies, state and local governments and stakeholder groups. While we laud the work that EPA Region 3 and the Bay Program Office are doing, we believe it is critical that the Agency retain someone at the helm in a senior executive position of similar caliber and experience charting the course forward as we approach the 2017 Mid-Point Assessment in Chesapeake watershed restoration.

As you know, the Chesapeake Bay Program faces some serious challenges ahead in finding the resources, ensuring accountability and verifying progress in implementing the goals and action plans of the new Chesapeake Watershed Agreement, Chesapeake Executive Order #13508, and the Clean Water Act's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollution diet for the Chesapeake and its tributaries, among other needs. Sustaining the position of Bay "Czar" with a focus on addressing these challenges and coordinating the Bay Program partnership's response is essential for future success and underscores that the Chesapeake watershed restoration effort remains a top EPA priority.

We commend you for your leadership in protecting public health and our environment and hope you will give this matter full and careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Stek
Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee

Paula Jasinski
Vice-Chair, Citizens Advisory

Jessica M. Blackburn, CAC Coordinator

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





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