



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

April 25, 2017

Paula Jasinski, Chair
Citizens Advisory Committee
To the Chesapeake Executive Council
612 Hull Street, Suite 101-C
Richmond, VA 23224

Dear Chairwoman Jasinski:

Thank you for your correspondence to Governor Larry Hogan regarding the possible loss of federal funding to support the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. The Governor received your correspondence and asked me to respond on his behalf.

The Governor and I thank you for your support of the Chesapeake Bay and the beautiful environment that Marylanders enjoy. From the very beginning of this administration, Governor Hogan has been a fierce advocate for the Chesapeake Bay. The governor has invested more than \$3 billion in efforts to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, and that commitment will continue today and into the future.

The federal Chesapeake Bay Program is currently funded at \$73 million, which helps the EPA and its partners to meet their broad responsibilities under Clean Water Act Section 117. Inadequate funding will have a detrimental effect on the state's ability to make sufficient progress on its Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts or evaluate progress of other states towards meeting their responsibilities. The Governor has made it clear that he opposes any decrease in federal funding for Bay restoration efforts.

It is important to understand that the President's proposed budget is just that, a proposal. It carries no weight of law. If any of these budget proposals ever become law or even make into actual legislation as the U.S. Congress works to develop the federal budget, the Governor's office will work to address them during the state budget process. Our administration will always fight to protect our state's most important natural asset.

The Governor's Chesapeake Bay Cabinet is working closely with Maryland's Congressional Delegation to ensure that we continue to make progress in restoring the Chesapeake Bay and protecting the State's environment and natural resources. When Governor Hogan met with Maryland's Congressional Delegation on January 23, 2017 he shared a number of environmental initiatives with them. One of Governor Hogan's top federal priorities for fiscal year 2018 was Chesapeake Bay Restoration, including maintaining federal oversight and upstream accountability, increasing federal funding for infrastructure and science, and increasing flexibilities including broader, strong public-private partnerships.

As events unfold at the federal level, I urge you to stay engaged in the national debate and to share your views with Maryland's Congressional Delegation. I also hope you will stay active in your community to improve the environment around you through activities such as planting trees, engaging in neighborhood

Paula Jasinski, Chairwoman

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cleanup events, participating in recycling programs, and being energy wise in your own home and places of work and worship. To learn more about environmental protection efforts in Maryland, please visit our state agency websites at www.mde@maryland.gov (Department of the Environment), www.dnr@maryland.gov (Department of Natural Resources), and www.mda@maryland.gov (Department of Agriculture).

Thank you again for your correspondence. The Governor appreciates hearing from you and I thank you on his behalf for your interest in this very important matter. If I may be of further assistance, please call me at 410-537-3084 or Mr. Lee Currey, Acting Director of the Water Management Administration, at 410-537-3567 or by email at lee.currey@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Grumbles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" being more prominent than the last name "Grumbles".

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

cc: Lee Currey, Acting Director, Water Management Administration