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July 2, 2015

The Honorable Molly Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia

Dear Secretary Ward:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with LGAC's Virginia delegation. We appreciate your concern for and understanding of the issues we raised and look forward to working with you and others in the McAuliffe administration to achieve our common goals. To that end, we appreciate your offer to identify key staff within the Commonwealth with whom we should meet. LGAC Coordinator, Mary Gattis, will be in touch with Russ Baxter on this point.

As discussed, LGAC recognizes the need to improve communication with local officials and we appreciate your willingness to work with us to that end. We like Russ Baxter's suggestion to create jurisdiction specific versions of Bay Brief and plan to discuss that with the Bay Program's Communications Director and Communication Workgroup.

We were excited to learn more about the Governor's goal to identify, preserve and protect at least 1,000 Treasures in Virginia and appreciate his acknowledgement of the need to focus on quality not quantity. This effort can play a critical role in helping communities achieve land conservation and water quality goals of the new Chesapeake Watershed Agreement. Obviously, financing implementation of the Watershed Agreement remains a challenge. As mentioned when we met, LGAC believes a Bay-wide symposium on financing is warranted. Because we believe local government has much to gain from this effort, we will support it as we are able.

Finally, LGAC Chair, Janine Burns, looks forward to discussing LGAC's Annual Report and Recommendations with the Governor on July 15 and joining the Executive Council at their meeting at the National Arboretum on July 23. As elected officials we understand the value of constructive dialogue among peers. Therefore, we applaud the Governor for trying a new approach to the Executive Council meeting structure.

Again, thank you for your time and please don't hesitate to call on us if we can be of assistance to you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Ruby A. Brabo
Dahlgren District Supervisor
King George County



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