



Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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November 7, 2024

Martha Shimkin
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office Director
Management Board Chair

Management Board Representatives of Signatories to the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

Dear Martha and Management Board Members,

As you plan for your closed session on Day 1 of the November Management Board Retreat, we offer for your consideration a recommendation of significant importance from the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee - we strongly encourage the Bay Program to commit by the end of 2025 to a new deadline for implementation of the existing Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) as a part of the revision of the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.

We understand that setting a new deadline for achieving the Bay TMDL is a complex undertaking made more uncertain by modeling and other technical needs and challenges, system lag times, land use changes, climate, and a potential additional approach to tiered implementation for shallow waters. Realistic timeframes for monitored water quality attainment in the deep channel are estimated in decades. Because of this, we encourage you to set an ambitious target for implementing the existing WIPs to provide public assurance and accountability to the water quality goals until the new targets are finalized.

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial issue from your volunteer advisors. We support you to be ambitious, innovative, and deeply devoted to transparency and accountability.

Sincerely,

Chuck Herrick
Chair, Stakeholders' Advisory Committee