



**Local Government
Advisory Committee**
to the Chesapeake Executive Council



AAC | Agricultural
Advisory Committee



Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Governor-Elect Abigail Spanberger

Dear Governor-Elect Spanberger,

On behalf of the four Chesapeake Bay Program Advisory Committees to the Chesapeake Executive Council, we extend our warmest congratulations on your election as the 75th Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the first female to serve in this role.

Our Committees are non-partisan volunteer groups appointed by our respective Governors of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York, along with the Mayor of the District of Columbia. We represent a diverse group of residents in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, including stakeholders, scientists, agriculture, and local governments. Our mission is to advise the Chesapeake Bay Program leadership. As Governor of a Chesapeake Bay watershed jurisdiction, you are a member of the Chesapeake Executive Council along with your gubernatorial colleagues. Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro was recently elected by his peers to serve as the Executive Council chair in 2026.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has played a vital role in the Chesapeake restoration effort from its beginning more than 40 years ago. There have been many successes in the watershed recovery effort, yet critical work remains to meet the pollution reduction, conservation, and restoration goals specified in the most recent multi-state and Federal *Chesapeake Watershed Agreement*.

As you and your team transition into your roles, we offer for your consideration the attached letter shared with your Executive Council colleagues following their 2025 annual meeting. We encourage you to keep the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership's commitment to restoring the watershed's rivers and the Chesapeake Bay as a high priority of your Administration. We look forward to working with your team and are excited to meet with you at the 2026 annual Executive Council meeting.

Respectfully,

Abel Olivo

Abel Olivo
Stakeholder's Advisory Committee

Wm C. Fink

William C. Fink
Agricultural Advisory Committee

William C. Dennison

Dr. Bill Dennison
Scientific & Technical
Advisory Committee

Marty Qually

Commissioner Marty Qually
Local Government Advisory Committee