



Citizens Advisory Committee

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October 28, 2016

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare your final budget request to the Congress for Fiscal Year 2018, we urge you to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated and policy direction provided to advance the goals of Chesapeake Executive Order #13508 -- restoration of our nation's largest estuary.

For 32 years, the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Chesapeake Executive Council has been providing a citizens' perspective and advice on the policies and programs of the Chesapeake restoration effort. In recent years we are seeing encouraging signs of progress and commend you for issuing the first-ever Executive Order on the Chesapeake as one of the first environmental actions of your Administration. This Order, and the Order's *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* completed in 2010, provided a blueprint and helped to galvanize the efforts of the EPA and several other federal agencies to work together and implement action plans to assist in restoring clean water, recovering habitat, sustaining fish and wildlife, conserving land, increasing public access, and expanding stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and its waterways. But the work is still far from complete and a significant investment of federal resources, policies and programs will be needed in Fiscal 2018 and beyond to reach the year 2025 cleanup goal. The Chesapeake Bay Program is viewed as a model by many other watershed programs around the country. We believe in our vision, and yours, to implement the programs necessary to demonstrate successful watershed restoration.

To that end, the U.S. Department of Agriculture must be encouraged to enhance targeting of its limited agriculture conservation funds to those farmlands that are contributing the most pollution to the Bay and its tributaries and to verify that Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being implemented. The U.S. Department of Education, which now has authority and funding under the Every Student Succeeds Act to support state and local environmental literacy efforts, must be encouraged to join with NOAA's BWET program and other federal agencies in the Chesapeake partnership and help prepare the next generation for the environmental challenges and employment opportunities ahead. Lastly, local governments and communities must be provided with additional funds to undertake restoration projects at the local level. These are among the key gaps that still need to be addressed, in addition to allocating the necessary program funds and personnel for climate change adaptation, land



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

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conservation, public access, fisheries, habitat and water quality to support the goals and actions assigned to the various Federal agencies in the Order and to help our States continue to make progress toward a clean Bay.

As the Executive Order Strategies point out, "... the increased investment of resources in the Chesapeake Bay and regional landscape – including the thousands of streams, creeks and rivers – will yield a priceless return for the environment, for local and regional economies, for the cultural and historic heritage, and, most importantly, for communities in cities, suburbs and rural areas." With sufficient resources and support at the Federal level, we can continue to make progress in achieving the restoration of our national treasure- and establish a truly successful model for other regions to follow.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you.

Most respectfully,



Charles A Stek

Chair, Citizens' Advisory Committee



Paula Jasinski

Vice-Chair, Citizens' Advisory Committee

cc: Christophe Tulou, Chesapeake Bay Special Assistant to the EPA Administer
 Nick DiPasquale, Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program
 Chesapeake Executive Council
 Principals Staff Committee
 Local Government Advisory Committee
 Citizens Advisory Committee