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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

October 4, 2016

Chesapeake Executive Council  
Chesapeake Bay Program  
The Honorable Terry McAuliffe, Chair  
Patrick Henry Building  
1111 East Broad Street, Third Floor  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Executive Council Members,

I regret not being able to attend the October 4, 2016 meeting of the Chesapeake Executive Council in beautiful Boyce, Virginia. Thank you all for your continued service to the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its citizens and communities.


Our administration is fully committed to restoring and protecting our most important natural asset, the Chesapeake Bay, and doing so with innovation and collaboration with our neighbors. Over the last 20 months, Maryland has achieved significant environmental progress, including: a landmark agreement between agricultural and environmental interests on new phosphorus management tool regulations, full funding for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund and more robust funding for Program Open Space, and a major ongoing initiative to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution from the Susquehanna River and Conowingo Dam.

Maryland is making strides in improving water quality across the state. Together with our partners in the state legislature, we reached a bipartisan agreement on sensible stormwater pollution prevention policies, and more effective, market-based water quality strategies. We are also currently moving forward with an initiative to install enhanced nutrient removal technologies at Maryland's 67 major wastewater facilities.

I would also like to thank those who participated in the 2016 Chesapeake Bay Environmental Finance Symposium. Given the magnitude of the restoration effort and the reality that the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions and communities do not have the capacity to achieve restoration goals without the engagement of the private sector, it is important that we continue to work together on solutions. The Chesapeake Bay Program plays an important role in moving this initiative forward and every Bay partner will benefit from making progress on this initiative.

I look forward to continuing to work with you on meaningful and sustained progress and again commend you for your commitment to the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Hogan  
Governor