



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor

July 21, 2016

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As chair of the Executive Council for the Chesapeake Bay Program, it is my pleasure to invite you to our annual meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at the Virginia State Arboretum in Boyce, Virginia. We will begin at 11:30 with a private lunch, and adjourn the public meeting by 2:00 p.m. As we continue the implementation of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement and approach the 2017 midpoint assessment of our water quality goals, this is a critical year in the life of this partnership.

We will have reports from our three advisory committees representing citizen, local government and scientific interests, as well as a briefing that will focus on the latest progress towards our water quality and related restoration goals. In addition, as charged by Congress, we will recommend an independent evaluator for the Chesapeake Bay Program. As in years past, the private luncheon will be followed by a public meeting including an opportunity to speak directly to the press at the close of the meeting.

It is my honor to chair a council that is representative of the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. Our restoration of this national treasure is setting an example for the rest of the country and the world.

I look forward to seeing you. Please confirm your plans for the meeting at your earliest convenience by contacting Rachel Felver at the Chesapeake Bay Program office at rfelver@chesapeakebay.net or phone (410) 267-5740.

Sincerely,

Terence R. McAuliffe

TRM/rl