



February 27, 2024

The Honorable Joshua Kurtz Maryland  
Natural Resources Office of the  
Secretary  
Chair, Principals' Staff Committee 580  
Taylor Avenue  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Sent via email: Josh.Kurtz@maryland.gov

Dear Secretary Kurtz,

On behalf of the membership of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee, we are committed to our collective missions to *"provide independent perspectives from critical stakeholder groups and strengthen the natural and social science basis for Bay protections and restoration activities"*. We value the time we have with the Chesapeake Executive Committee at their annual meeting and we work diligently throughout the year volunteering thousands of hours to provide meaningful recommendations.

As your advisors, we see an opportunity to increase the level of engagement over what we've experienced in recent years. We are encouraged by the productive discussion during the recent February 8, 2024 Management Board meeting when we shared our belief in the need for increased interaction with Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) leadership. We assert that additional engagement throughout the year could maximize the expertise and dedication of our members in service of the partnership. We propose exploring with you and your colleagues on the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) how to better integrate discussion around and potential action on the advice of our Committees.

Per the Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Chairs of the Advisory Committees are non-voting members of the PSC. We respectfully request dedicated time on the March 12, 2024 PSC agenda to:

- Provide a briefing on the membership and operations of our Advisory Committees;
- Briefly discuss our 2023 recommendations and planned CBP responses; and
- Explore together how the CBP partnership can better utilize the untapped resources of the Advisory Committees throughout the year.

Furthermore, we think these foundational discussions are timely and relevant given that the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is currently considering the creation of a fourth advisory committee for agriculture and will be collectively refining its work beyond the CBP's critically important year of 2025.

We look forward to initiating these conversations with you and working collaboratively on enhancing the engagement with your Advisory Committees. Our Committee Coordinators stand ready to work with your staff to craft a productive session on the March PSC agenda.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Daniel Chao.

Daniel Chao, Chair  
Local Government Advisory Committee

A black ink signature of Larry Sanford.

Larry Sanford, Chair  
Scientific and Technical  
Advisory Committee

A black ink signature of Chuck Herrick.

Chuck Herrick, Chair  
Stakeholders' Advisory Committee