

February 7, 2005

Mayor/Chair  
Address  
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Subject: COG Board of Directors Request for Member Feedback on Federal/State Proposal for Establishing a Chesapeake Bay Finance Authority and Related Restoration Funding Recommendations – **Comments Requested by March 11, 2005**

«Dear addressee»

On January 10, 2005, the Chesapeake Executive Council, the cooperative partnership among the governors of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the U.S. EPA Administrator, and the Chair of the tri-state legislative body, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, agreed to move forward with the recommendations of a special Chesapeake Bay Blue Ribbon Finance Panel it had chartered in 2004 to examine how to finance the cost of a clean Bay.

The Blue Ribbon Finance Panel reached a critical conclusion, which is that the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay cannot be achieved without bold new action to finance the effort. It issued a series of recommendations, the centerpiece of which is the creation of a *Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority* capitalized with \$12 billion in federal funds and \$3 billion in state funds. It also issued a series of other recommendations as well that address programs and proposals to fund the restoration effort.

On January 12, 2005, the COG Board of Directors met and was briefed on the Finance Panel's proposal. Recognizing the major significance of this initiative, the Board passed Resolution R2-05, thereby reaching out to the membership to seek review and comment on these very significant proposals. The Board desires to hear from its members and, based on their comments, adopt a regional position to transmit to the Chesapeake Executive Council.

**I am therefore writing to you to request that your jurisdiction review the enclosed materials and transmit your thoughts to me by March 11, 2005.** To assist you in this endeavor, we have developed a comment form, designed to focus member attention on several key issues. The Board has segmented its comment request into two parts. In Part I, we seek your perspective on whether COG should endorse the recommendation to establish the Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority. In Part II, we ask for your comments more broadly on the other 22 recommendations contained in the Blue Ribbon

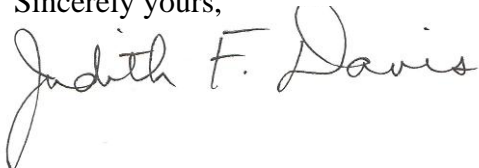
Panel Report. Whether we achieve regional consensus on any of the 22 recommendations will depend upon the comments received.

Please accept my thanks for taking the time to consider this very important issue and share your views with the Board. I will keep you posted on our progress, and should we require further information, we will follow-up as needed.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 301-474-8000, or Ted Graham, COG's Water Resources Program Director, at 202-962-3352.

Thanks very much for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith F. Davis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Sincerely yours,".

J Davis  
Chair, COG Board of Directors  
Mayor, City of Greenbelt, Maryland

cc: Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee  
COG Board of Directors  
COG Chief Administrative Officers Committee

Enclosures:

1. Resolution R2-05
2. Background and Synopsis of the Blue Ribbon Finance Panel Report
3. Copy of the Blue Ribbon Panel Report
4. Guidance for providing comments to COG