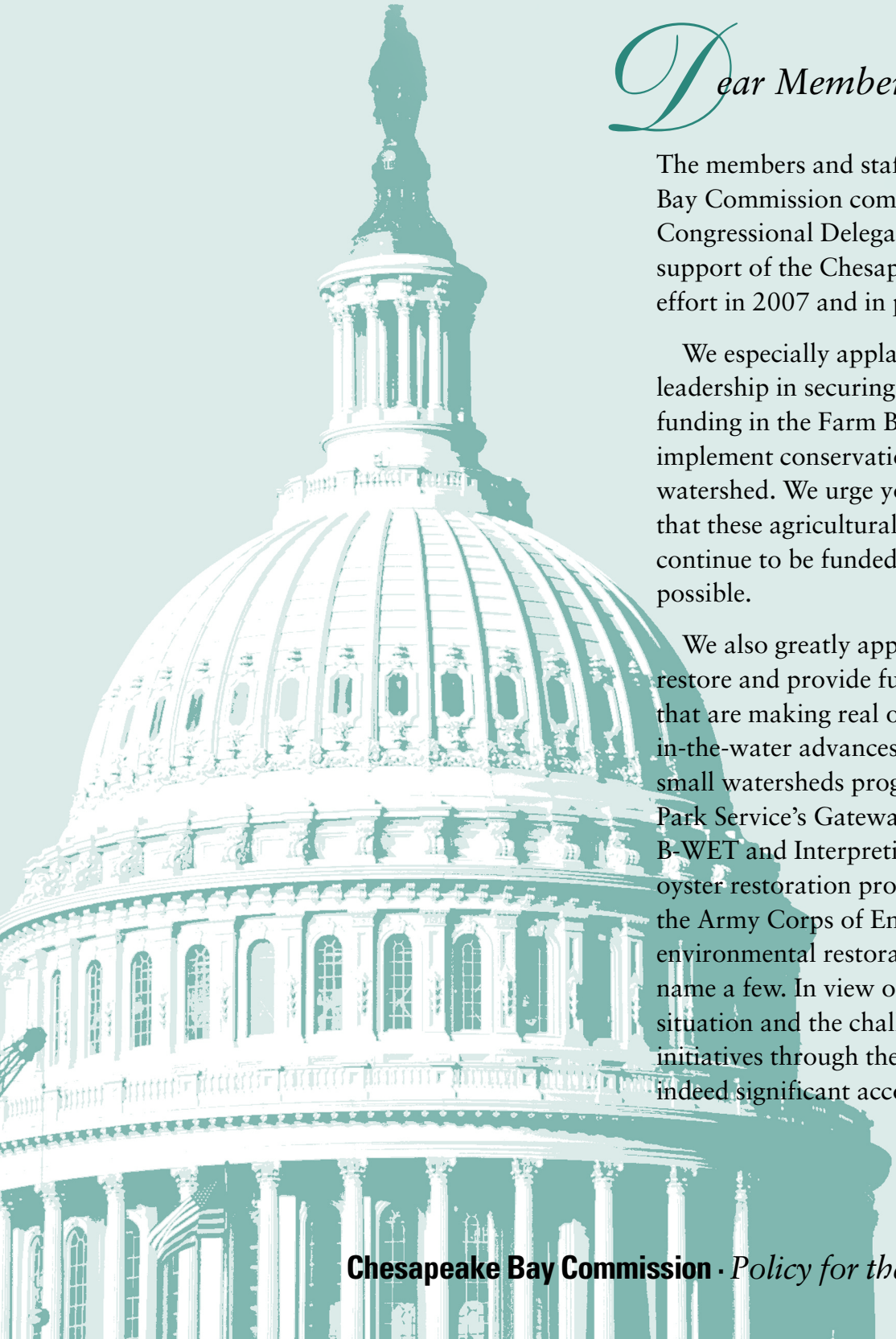
Chesapeake Bay Commission
Special Report · *February 2008*

Congressional Agenda 2008–2010



Dear Member of Congress:

The members and staff of the Chesapeake Bay Commission commend the Bay area Congressional Delegation for its tremendous support of the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort in 2007 and in previous years.

We especially applaud you for your leadership in securing unprecedented new funding in the Farm Bill to help farmers implement conservation programs in the Bay watershed. We urge you to work to ensure that these agricultural conservation programs continue to be funded at the highest levels possible.

We also greatly appreciate your efforts to restore and provide funding for programs that are making real on-the ground and in-the-water advances: EPA's targeted and small watersheds programs, the National Park Service's Gateways Program, NOAA's B-WET and Interpretive Buoy System, and oyster restoration programs, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers' Chesapeake environmental restoration programs, to name a few. In view of the difficult budget situation and the challenges of moving new initiatives through the Congress, these were indeed significant accomplishments.

Continued on next page

In addition, we want to thank you for expanding the Chesapeake Bay programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Water Resources Development Act including Blue Plains' sewage treatment, oyster restoration, Poplar Island and Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Programs.

We share your frustration with the level of progress that has been made thus far and value your efforts to bring more accountability to the Bay Program. The Farm Bill programs, if fully implemented, should help bring the Bay Program closer to meeting its nutrient reduction goals, but stormwater runoff, the impacts of population growth and development and climate change, and the continued loss of habitat and living resources must all be addressed as well. This is an extraordinary endeavor and all local governments and citizens will need to be involved.

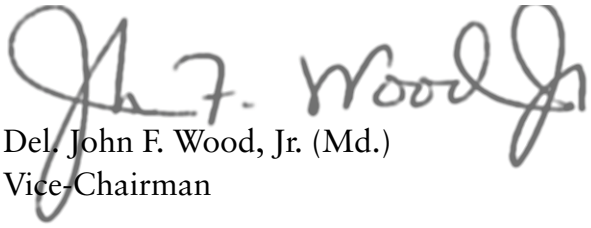
Over the next three years, we ask that you pursue legislative changes to refocus the Bay Program to address these needs. Set forth in this report are the priorities of the Commission for the remainder of the 110th Congress and for the 111th Congress. Programs that result in land conservation and the prevention or reduction of pollution should be given priority.

We acknowledge that this is a big list, but it reflects the scope and complexity of Federal support. We hope that you can use it to guide you as you pursue legislative opportunities. We will support you in your efforts while we continue to work within our states to get the job done.

Sincerely,

Rep. Arthur D. Hershey (Pa.)
Chairman

Del. John A Cosgrove (Va.)
Vice-Chairman



Del. John F. Wood, Jr. (Md.)
Vice-Chairman

Congressional Agenda 2008–2010

Federal Requests For
The Chesapeake Bay And Its Tributaries

Executive Summary

Authorization Bills

- Support the highest levels of conservation assistance in the conference agreement on the Farm Bill.
- Reauthorize the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, refocus the program on a river-by-river strategy, and improve accountability.
- Reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Program.
- Co-sponsor the No Child Left Inside Act including its funding provision.
- Expand the authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address stormwater runoff and help restore Chesapeake Bay rivers and streams in the Water Resources Development Act of 2008.
- Reauthorize the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Program.
- Explore opportunities in the climate change legislation for using the auction of carbon credits to help finance Chesapeake Bay restoration activities.
- When the Congress considers the reauthorization of the Surface Transportation bill in 2009 currently known as SAFETEA-LU, include a new program to mitigate the impacts of stormwater runoff from highways and related impervious surfaces.
- Develop legislation to expand the role of the U.S. Forest Service in the Bay's restoration.
- Reauthorize the Clean Water Act and boost funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund to $3.2 billion.
- Using existing Federal programs including the Land Water Conservation Fund, Forest Legacy, transportation funds and others, set aside funding for land conservation in the watershed.

Appropriations Bills

- Provide funding for upgrading nutrient removal technology at Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant as authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007. Also continue support for funding the District of Columbia's Combined Sewer Overflow correction plan within the District's budget.
- Support the recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for the water quality and living resources program appropriations.
- Sustain or provide new funding for educational, public access and stewardship programs to enhance the capacity of local governments and citizens to be good stewards of the Bay. These programs include: the National Park Service's Gateways and Watertrails Program,

NOAA's B-WET (education) and CBIBS (interpretive buoy) programs, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Bay National Historic Trail, the U.S. Forest Service's Bay Program, and a new local government circuit rider and Leadership Chesapeake Bay initiative.

- Provide funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake two studies vital to the Bay: a study of the sediment behind the dams on the Susquehanna River and a Chesapeake Bay Master Plan. These studies are a necessary step for the Corps to undertake and budget for restoration projects in the Bay.
- Provide funding to the USGS to undertake a comprehensive investigation of the fish kills that have occurred in recent years in the lower Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers.

Budget Resolution

- Ensure that the Function 300 Natural Resources and Environment of the fiscal 2009 budget resolution provides sufficient funding for environmental and natural resource conservation programs. Particularly important are the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the Army Corps of Engineers' water resource programs and the USDA's Agricultural Conservation programs.

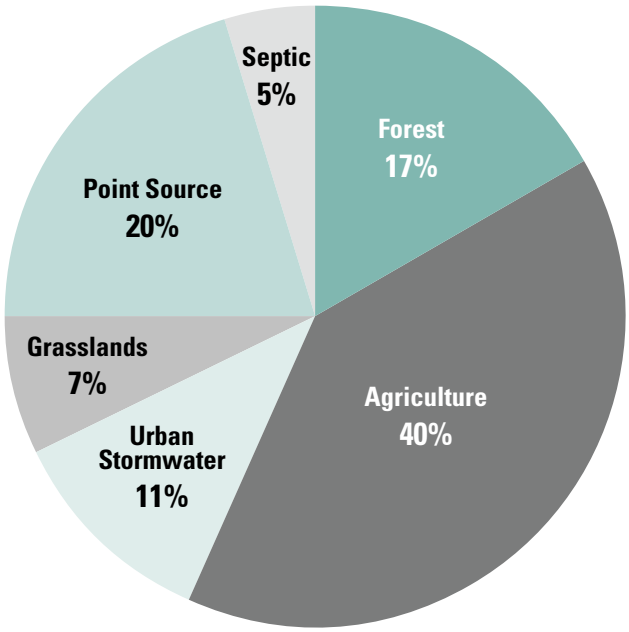
Federal Support For The Chesapeake Bay Region

Program-By-Program Requests

For nearly three decades, the Chesapeake Bay Commission has been a leader in Bay restoration efforts. Confronting the broad range of issues that reflect countless pollution sources, land uses and human impacts on the nation's largest estuary requires a concerted effort by the Federal, state and local governments, as well as the private sector. All have a significant role to play.

A wide array of programs is needed to protect and restore the Bay and its resources. This document is not intended to address every program. We offer this proposed Federal agenda for 2008–2010, program-by-program, as a limited set of recommendations on ways the Congressional Delegation can move Bay restoration forward over the next three years.

Sources Of Nitrogen Pollution To The Chesapeake Bay 2006



SOURCE: CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

Farm Bill, Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Conservation

Federal financial assistance to farmers in the Bay region is critical to achieving major pollution reductions from agricultural sources and to maintaining the viability of agriculture in the region. Under the leadership of the Congressional Delegation, the House and Senate Farm Bills provide unprecedented levels of support for agricultural conservation practices in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

As the House-Senate Conference Committee begins its deliberations on the Farm Bill, we ask for your continued help in sustaining these agricultural conservation programs at the highest possible levels. A combination of both the House and Senate versions would best serve the needs of the Chesapeake region.

We urge the Delegation to sustain the Chesapeake Bay Program for Nutrient Reduction and Sediment Control, the Regional Water Enhancement Program, and Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Conservation Planning Pilot Program included in the House version of the bill. Also include the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Conservation Program contained in the Senate bill.

In addition, we request the Delegation's continued support for maximum increases to

the national Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Moreover, it is essential that the Federal income tax deduction for the donation of conservation easements that was expanded in 2006 and 2007 be made permanent and we hope the Delegation will support this.

By taking the best from each chamber, we believe we can strengthen conservation, farmland protection and help restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Reauthorizing And Refocusing The EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program expired in 2005. Reauthorizing the program presents a great opportunity to refocus the program, improve its accountability and move the restoration process forward. In our view, by bringing the Bay program "upstream" we can accomplish these goals and further engage local governments and citizens in this effort.

The EPA is in the process of implementing the recommendations contained in the October 2005 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the Chesapeake Bay entitled *Improved Strategies Are Needed to Better Assess, Report, and Manage Restoration*. In the conference report to accompany the Consolidated Appropriations bill for Fiscal 2008, the Congress also directed the EPA to develop a Chesapeake Bay action plan for the remaining years of the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement setting realistic targets, identifying activities and funding to be undertaken to meet those targets, and to track progress.

Because the health of the rivers and streams that flow into the Bay directly impacts the health of the Bay, we believe that EPA should develop and implement action plans and report cards for each of the major rivers that flow into the Bay. If the Bay is to be restored, action must be taken on a river-by-river basis, as well. Many of the rivers and streams that drain into the Bay, and the Bay itself, are on the Federal impaired waters list. These action plans should build upon the work of the State Tributary Strategies teams which are focused on water quality improvements, but also address the other four principal Bay restoration goals: living resources, vital habitats, sound land use and stewardship and community engagement.

It is estimated that every citizen in the Bay watershed lives within a half mile of a river or stream that drains into the Chesapeake. Citizens have a right to know the condition of those rivers and streams in their communities and should be engaged in the effort to protect and restore them. Among other things, the reauthorized legislation should direct EPA to publish and widely circulate annual "River Report Cards" that describe the progress made in achieving the five principal restoration goals for each major river or river segment in the Bay watershed. These report cards would provide the public with a clear and accurate picture of the progress toward restoring these rivers and ultimately the Bay, which is currently lacking.

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers Chesapeake Bay Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been engaged in the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort from the beginning. It was the first agency to complete a comprehensive study of the Chesapeake Bay's water and related land resources. Since then, the Corps has undertaken or participated in a variety of important projects throughout the watershed to help improve the Bay's water resources, including: sewage treatment plant upgrades, making beneficial use of

dredged materials, removing fish blockages, mitigating the impacts of shoreline erosion and restoring wetlands, habitat and oyster reefs.

We greatly appreciate the work of the Bay area Congressional Delegation to enhance the authorities and funding of the Army Corps of Engineers over the years, including in the most recent Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007 and the Fiscal 2008 appropriations bills. We believe that there are additional opportunities in a new WRDA to further engage the Corps of Engineers in Bay restoration projects and particularly in bringing the Bay Program upstream and addressing critical stormwater runoff problems.

Accordingly we recommend that the Congress:

- Further amend Section 510 of WRDA, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, to:
  - designate the Patapsco, Elizabeth, Anacostia, Susquehanna and Potomac River basins as priorities;
  - direct the Corps to develop a Chesapeake comprehensive plan;
  - establish a new small watersheds restoration grants program for local governments and nonprofit organizations; and
  - add the District of Columbia and other watershed states under the list of states that are eligible for assistance.
- Expand the authority of the Corps of Engineers to cost-share in stormwater management solutions. The Corps is strictly limited under its existing policies and guidance from assisting local governments in addressing stormwater problems.
- Expand the authorities under Section 704 (b) of WRDA 1986 to enable the Corps to pursue other fish and wildlife and habitat restoration work such as seagrass beds.

NOAA Chesapeake Bay Program

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been a key Federal partner in the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort since the signing of a memorandum of agreement with EPA in 1984. Congress formally authorized NOAA's role and responsibilities in the Chesapeake Bay in 1992 and established the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office (NCBO) to coordinate the agency's various programs and activities in the Chesapeake Bay. The legislation was reauthorized in 1996 and again in 2002 as part of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments. That authority expired in 2006 and must be reauthorized.

We commend the members of the Bay area Congressional Delegation for your strong support of NOAA over the years. The NCBO's four major programs in fisheries, habitat, integrated coastal observations and education are critical in providing the ecosystem science, coastal and living management, and environmental literacy capacity needed to meet the commitments of *Chesapeake 2000*. These programs have general authorities under NOAA, but no specific authorities. Consequently when it comes to budgeting for NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Programs, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has viewed programs like the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS), the Bay Watershed Education and Training Program (B-WET) and similar other initiatives as "earmarks" and not within the specific budget priorities of NOAA.

We urge you to reauthorize NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Program and provide specific authority for the agency to continue its B-WET, Integrated Coastal Observing System and CBIBS programs.

Chesapeake Bay Gateways And Watertrails Program

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Program expires in 2008 and must be reauthorized. We urge the members of the Bay area Congressional Delegation to identify an appropriate legislative vehicle to move this reauthorization through the House and Senate this year.

Through Fiscal 2007 the Congress has appropriated $11.7 million in Federal funds for the program. These funds have supported more than 160 grants to communities, non-profit organizations and others throughout the watershed — funds which are matched by non-federal dollars, leveraging the Federal investment. These funds have helped to develop new access points to the Bay, such as canoe and kayak launches, wildlife observation boardwalks, interpretive signs, exhibits and kiosks, and supported projects related to the Jamestown 400 celebration and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Today, the network encompasses more than 150 sites in six states and the District of Columbia, visited by more than 10 million people each year. These sites include some 20 National Parks and Wildlife Refuges, 45 state and local parks or trails, more than 20 watertrails, and over 30 museums, historic buildings, historic vessels, and historic communities. But the Chesapeake Bay watershed is huge — 64,000 square miles — and there are still significant gaps in on-site interpretation, large deficiencies in public access, and a great need for new strategies to engage visitors and residents alike in Bay conservation.

A draft special resources study published by the National Park Service in August 2004, but never formally submitted to the Congress, recommended that the Gateways Program be made a permanent part of the National Park Service.

No Child Left Inside Act

The Bay's future depends on a well-educated public to be good stewards of the Bay and to make well-informed decisions. Recognizing the critical importance of environmental education, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and other non-profit organizations have worked to educate hundreds of thousands of students and teachers in the watershed, providing classroom and field experiences, teacher training, and restoration and schoolyard habitat projects.

The signatories to the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement committed to "provide a meaningful Bay or stream outdoor experience for every school student in the watershed before graduation from high school" beginning with the class of 2005. Vital support for environmental education has also been provided by NOAA's B-WET Program — the first federally funded environmental education program focused solely on the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Important as all these efforts and programs are, they still only reach a very small percentage of the more than 3.5 million K-12 students in the watershed. To complicate matters, in recent years math and reading instruction has crowded out environmental education programs at many schools — one of the unintentional consequences of the No Child Left Behind Act's testing require-

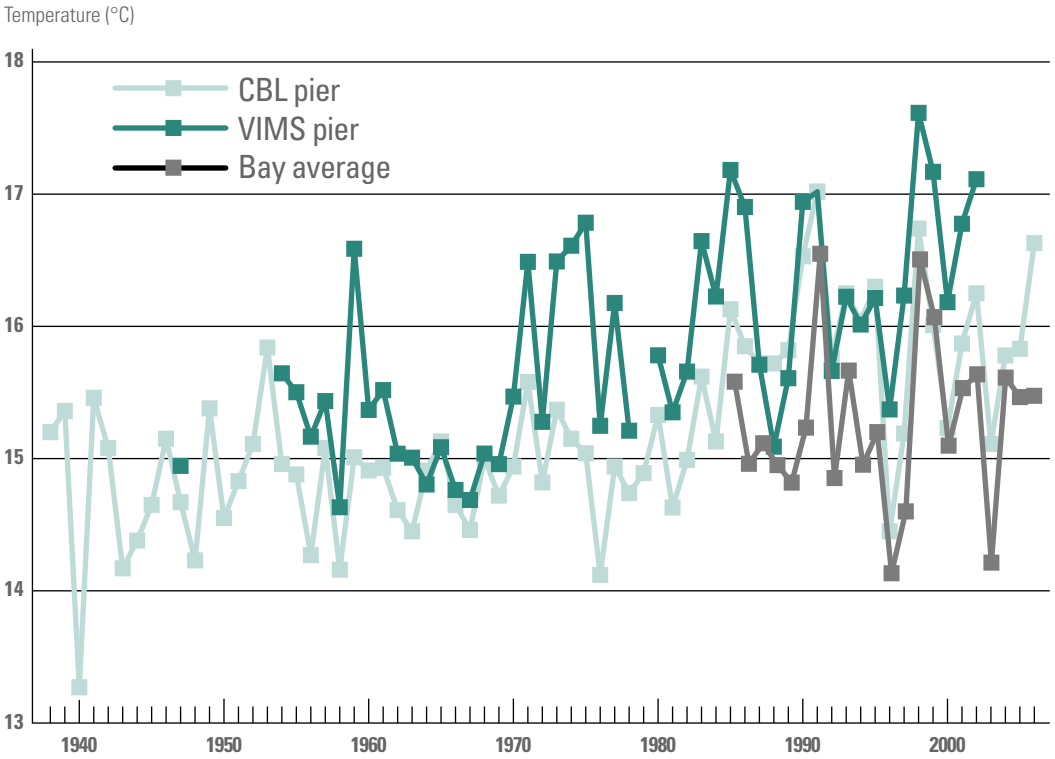
ments. This is despite the fact that research has shown that environmental education leads to improved student performance in these core subjects. Support for environmental education at all levels — Federal, state and local — must be expanded.

Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate (H.R. 3036 and S. 1981) which would, for the first time, provide significant Federal support for states to offer high-quality environmental education. Entitled The No Child Left Inside Act, the bills authorize $100 million a year to states to develop and implement environmental and outdoor education programs to ensure that every student graduates from high school environmentally literate. This legislation is important for the Bay, but also to help address the broader environmental challenges facing our nation. The legislation is supported by a broad coalition of more than 150 environmental, educational, business and public health organizations across the country. We urge members of the Bay area Congressional Delegation to co-sponsor the legislation and include its provisions in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (No Child Left Behind Act).

Climate Change Legislation

A report released in December 2007, by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change on the regional impacts of climate change, found that "climate change is likely to significantly complicate the achievement of environmental management objectives for the Chesapeake Bay." The case study on the Bay examined the potential impacts of climate change on hypoxia and concluded that "many of the anticipated changes (increased streamflow, warmer temperatures, calmer summer winds,

Warming Waters Of The Chesapeake



Average annual surface water temperatures at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory (Patuxent River) and Virginia Institute of Marine Science (mouth of York River), plus Bay average over the mainstem Bay.

SOURCE: G. ANDERSON, H. AUSTIN AND VIMS SCIENTIFIC DATA ARCHIVE (VIMS PIER); D. SECOR AND R. WINGATE (CBL PIER); D. JASINSKI AND CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM OFFICE (BAY AVERAGE).

and increased depth due to sea-level rise) would move the ecosystem in the direction of worsening hypoxia" and more frequent and larger low-oxygen dead zones that negatively impact fisheries and tourism.

The National Wildlife Federation and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation also released reports in 2007 that concluded that fish and wildlife in the Chesapeake Bay are being affected by climate change and rising sea levels are already impacting the Bay's marshlands, seagrasses and low lying communities.

Legislation has been introduced in the House and Senate which would create "cap and trade" market-based greenhouse gas reduction programs similar to the trading program established under the Clean Air Act for acid rain reduction. Under a bill that was recently approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, a portion of the revenues from the auction of carbon credits would be set aside for restoration activities "in large-scale estuarine ecosystems, such as Chesapeake Bay and Long Island Sound" that are impacted by climate change.

We urge the Bay area Congressional Delegation to explore all opportunities to ensure that dedicated funds are set aside for restoration of the Chesapeake Bay in any climate change measures that are finally approved by the Congress.

At the same time, we also urge the Congressional Delegation to continue and expand its oversight role in evaluating the actions of Federal agencies with respect to climate change. Congressional hearings, such as those held in 2007 by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, encourage agencies to advance their consideration of these issues and develop a foundation for coordinated action.

SAFETEA-LU Stormwater Runoff Program

A report completed in September 2007 by the EPA Inspector General at the request of Senator Barbara Mikulski found that runoff from developed lands accounts for up to 30 percent of nutrient and sediment loads to the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to development, runoff from highways and related facilities constitutes a major part of that water pollution problem. It is estimated that runoff from highways in the Chesapeake Bay region contributes nearly 7 million pounds of nitrogen, 1 million pounds of phosphorous and 167,000 tons of sediment annually to the Bay.

While states are required to meet EPA stormwater regulations in constructing new highways, no such requirement exists to mitigate pollution from existing highways and associated paved surfaces. States are allowed to use Federal-aid highway funds for this purpose, but few states do because of competition with other state priorities.

Congress has recognized the need to help states and localities meet Federal Clean Air Standards by establishing the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program in previous Surface Transportation bills. A comparable program is needed to help Bay area states and localities meet water quality standards stemming from the stormwater impacts of Federal-aid highways.

During consideration of the Federal Transportation act, SAFETEA-LU in 2005, the full Senate approved an amendment by Senator John Warner to set aside 2 percent of surface transportation program funds for a national stormwater mitigation program. Unfortunately, the amendment was struck from the final Conference Agreement.

We urge the Bay area Congressional Delegation to revisit this proposal during the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, either as a national initiative, or specifically for the Chesapeake Bay region.

Land Conservation

There is an undeniable link between the health of the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and our stewardship of huge areas of land that comprises its watershed. The land-to-water ratio is larger than nearly any other estuarine water body in the world. With a water surface for the tidal Bay of only 4,000 square miles and a watershed of 64,000 square miles, land surface exceeds water surface by more than 16 times. How we treat the land profoundly influences the quality of the water. Thus, land conservation may very well be the most important factor in the success or failure of our efforts to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Federal funding has been an invaluable component of the states' land preservation accomplishments to date. This includes funding for Federal units such as national parks, forests and wildlife refuges, as well as grants to state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. It will be important to maintain, if not increase Federal funds available for land conservation within the watershed if we are to keep pace with the impacts of development.

The opportunities for expanding the availability of Federal land conservation funds are many, and include:

- maximizing the participation of the watershed states in the Forest Legacy Program and the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program;
- expanding the use of Federal transportation funds for land and easement acquisition leveraging state conservation dollars to the maximum degree possible; and,
- Increase investment of both Federal acquisition and state grants funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry Program

Forests serve as natural filters and have been found to do more than any other type of land cover to protect the Bay's water quality. Unfortunately, forest loss and fragmentation are occurring rapidly in the Chesapeake Bay region. A report released in September 2006 by The Conservation Fund and USDA Forest Service found that 100 acres of forest a day are lost to development in the Bay watershed. Nearly 10 million acres of additional forests will be converted in the next 22 years if current trends continue. The result is a regional forest land base that is swiftly losing its capacity to protect the health of the watershed and provide other ecological benefits, such as controlling stormwater runoff, erosion and air pollution, all critical to the Bay clean-up effort.

Chesapeake 2000 includes commitments to conserve existing forests along all streams and shorelines; promote the expansion and connection of contiguous forests; assess the Bay's forest lands; and provide technical and financial assistance to local governments to plan for or revise plans, ordinances and subdivision regulations to provide for the conservation and sustainable use of the forest and agricultural lands. Recently, the Chesapeake Executive Council announced a new goal of protecting nearly 700,000 acres of additional acres of forest from conversion to other land uses.

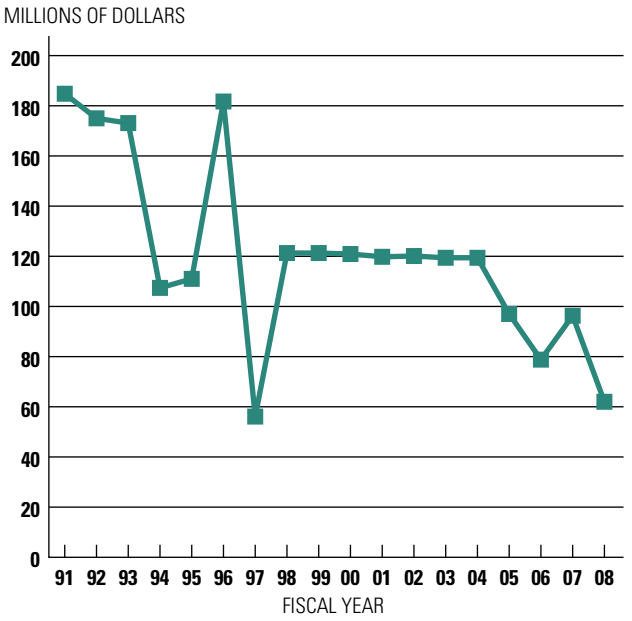
The two principal programs of the USDA Forest Service for Chesapeake watershed forest conservation, restoration and stewardship are the collaborative forestry programs of the Forest Service's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forestry Program, which has been funded at approximately $1 million a year and the Service's Forest Legacy Program which provides important, but limited grant support to state efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. We believe that there are other opportunities to enhance the role of the Forest Service in helping to preserve Chesapeake forests and urge the Delegation to survey the existing collaborative programs of the Forest Service and explore the potential of establishing new National Forests, research forests and an enhanced Chesapeake Watershed Forestry Program to support forest conservation and ultimately help restore the Bay.

Strengthen And Reauthorize The Clean Water Act

The principal Federal statute designed to protect our Nation's rivers, streams and coastal waters — the Clean Water Act (CWA) — was last reauthorized in 1987. It expired in Fiscal 1990 but Congress has continued to appropriate funds to carry out the Act. States and municipalities rely on funding made available under the Act's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to upgrade sewage treatment plants to meet water quality goals.

Federal Funding For Wastewater Treatment FY 1991-2008

Combined CWSRF funding for Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and District of Columbia.



SOURCE: EPA

Unfortunately, Federal support for the CWSRF has declined from a high of about $2 billion in 1991 to less than $700 million in Fiscal 2008 and the President's fiscal 2009 budget proposes further cuts to $555 million — the lowest level in the history of the program. In the Chesapeake Bay region — Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia — have experienced reductions in CWSRF dollars of nearly 70 percent from the levels provided in Fiscal 1991. To restore the Chesapeake Bay and its major tributaries, it is estimated that municipal wastewater treatment facilities will have to reduce nitrogen discharges by nearly 75 percent at a cost of about $4.4 billion.

Increased Federal support is urgently needed to upgrade our wastewater infrastructure and to address nonpoint source pollution, storm-

water runoff, combined sewer overflows and other impairments to the Bay and its tributaries. A reauthorized CWA must do more to address these prominent causes of water degradation. We urge the Bay area Congressional Delegation to reauthorize the Clean Water Act to better address nonpoint sources and to increase the authorization for the CWSRF to $3.2 billion.

Chesapeake Bay Appropriations Initiatives

Annual appropriations for the various Federal agency programs and initiatives in the Chesapeake Bay watershed represent a crucial part of the funding needed to meet Bay restoration goals. Without the support of the Bay area Congressional Delegation, many programs important to the Bay including wastewater treatment, education, oyster and habitat restoration, interpretation and recreation, science and monitoring, cooperative forestry, core agency funding, and agricultural technical assistance — to name a few — would have experienced drastic cuts or even been eliminated entirely.

We greatly appreciate the Delegation's support and recognize the difficult budget situation that Congress has faced. We implore you to continue your efforts to sustain and, where possible, to increase funding for these programs. Accordingly, we request that the Delegation:

- Support the recommendations of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for the water quality and living resources programs for: EPA (including the small and targeted watersheds programs and the CWSRF), USDA agricultural conservation and technical assistance (plus sufficient support for all states in the watershed to meet core conservation assistance needs), and NOAA and the Army Corps of Engineers' oyster restoration.
- Support the upgrading of nutrient removal technology at Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant and retrofitting of the District of Columbia's Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 authorized $30 million for enhanced nutrient removal at Blue Plains and $35 million for implementation of the District's CSO control plan. Provide funding for these interconnected projects through the Water and Energy Bill and support District funding in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act.
- Sustain or increase funding for education, public access and stewardship programs to enhance citizen stewardship of the Bay. These programs include: the National Park Service's Gateways and Watertrails Program, NOAA's B-WET and CBIBS programs, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Bay National Historic Trail, and the U.S. Forest Service's Bay Program. A knowledgeable and motivated citizenry is critical to restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay and its natural resources. Education, public access and hands-on programs have proven to be successful in fostering stewardship of the Bay.
- Provide funding for two new initiatives: 1) a new local government circuit rider program to assist local governments in the implementation of sound watershed restoration measures, stormwater management and sustainable development practices; and 2) establishment of a Leadership Chesapeake Bay initiative.
  - The Bay Program's Local Government Advisory Committee has recommended that the Chesapeake Executive Council establish a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance to local governments in the watershed. Modeled, in part, on the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program, the Bay Circuit Rider would provide natural resource-based planning and technical assistance to municipal and county governments to help them protect natural resources, reduce

sprawl, and ensure sustainable economic growth.

- The Leadership Chesapeake Bay initiative is an education/engagement program focused on adults in the public and private sectors who are in positions to make or influence decisions affecting the Chesapeake Bay's health. Its goals are to: generate a personal and organizational commitment to Chesapeake Bay restoration; identify best practices and create opportunities for integrating Bay stewardship into business activities; exchange ideas between the private sector, government and the non-profit community; develop environmental partnerships and new policy solutions; and recruit new people into the Bay restoration effort.

- Provide funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to undertake two studies vital to the Bay: a study of the sediment behind the dams on the Susquehanna River and a Chesapeake Bay Master Plan. Much of the progress that has been made in improving the water quality of the Bay could be reversed if the substantial volume of sediments that has been accumulating behind the dams on the Susquehanna River is suddenly released. An action plan for those sediments needs to be developed and implemented. Likewise, a comprehensive plan of action has not been developed for the Corps of Engineers to address the water resource problems of Chesapeake Bay in more than 20 years. Such a plan would be a useful tool to integrate existing and future work of the Corps of Engineers. The Corps is constrained in budgeting and undertaking restoration projects in the Bay without having detailed studies and plans. Also, these studies are a necessary step for the Corps to undertake and budget for restoration projects in the Bay.
- Provide funding for the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the causes of the large fish kills that have occurred on the lower Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers. Over the past several years, anglers and others have reported large numbers of dead and sick fish, including smallmouth and rock bass, on these rivers. States in the region are working with USGS in an effort to identify the potential causes of the kills and health problems, but greater efforts are needed.

Function 300 Natural Resources And Environment

Federal Budget Function 300 includes a wide variety of programs critical to preserving the nation's and the Chesapeake Bay's natural resources and environment. Among these programs are the CWSRF, which helps finance sewage treatment plant upgrades; the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and many agricultural conservation programs; the Army Corps of Engineers' water resource programs; the conservation, land management and recreational programs of the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; EPA's pollution control and abatement programs; and the programs of NOAA and U.S. Geological Survey.

The annual budget resolution sets the level of budget authority and outlays for these and other budget functions. It also establishes funding policies and assumptions for spending and revenue. Therefore, it is vital that Congress ensure the highest possible levels of funding for the Budget Function 300. According to the House Budget Committee, over the past eight years (FYs 2001–2008), total funding for Function 300 programs has fallen by 16 percent in constant dollars.

Federal Appropriations for the Chesapeake Bay, FY 1985–2008

In millions of dollars, except where noted otherwise.

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY09
EPA																									
EPA Base Program	$10	$10	$10.50	$11.40	$11.50	$11.50	$16.30	$19.80	$19.60	$20.90	$20.90	$20.80	$19.70	$19.60	$19.90	$18.90	$19.50	$19.50	$20.65	$20.80	20.8	20.7	20.7	20.7	
Small watersheds														0.75	0.75	0.75	1.25	1.75	2	2	2	2	0	2	
Targeted Watersheds																					8	6	8	7.9	
Oysters							0.35	1	0.4				0.1				0.3								
3-D Model								0.5																	
Patuxent Demo						1.25	1																		
Pfiesteria																1.5	2								
BNR Projects																									
Toxics research							2																		
Clean Water Grants/SRF		1.8B	2.36B	2.3B	1.95B	1.98B	2.1B	1.95B	2.0B	1.74B	2.0B	1.35B	.625B	1.35B	1.35B	1.35B	1.35B	1.35B	1.35B	1.35B	1.1B	.9B		.689B	
USDA																									
SCS/NRCS base	0.25	0.84	0.84	1.14	1.6	2.1	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.75	5.25	6	6	6	6	6	?	4.2	
USDA Aquaculture						0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4								
Ches Ag ecology center																	0.175	0.28	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	?		
FOREST SERVICE								0.2	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.2	0.2	0.25	0.25	0.5	0.5	0.75	1	2	1.23	0.95	0.95	0.935	
NOAA																									
NOAA base	1.34	1.44	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	2	2	1.89	1.89	1.89	1.5	1.89	1.89	1.89	2.4	2.5	2.75	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.49	1.92	
Oyster disease research					0.5	0.5	1.35	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5									
Oyster restoration														0.45	0.45	0.85	0.85	2	2	2	4	6	3.875	1.79	
CBOS/CBIBS								0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4											0.5	0.3	0.446	
Ballast water demo														0.75	0.75		0.85								
BWET																		1.2	2	2.5	2.5	3.5	2.1	3.5	
Multi species																	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.35	
Emergency striped bass study	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47																	
Blue crabs																		1.5	2	2	2.2	5	3.825	0	
Non-native oyster EIS																			1	2	2	2	0.82		
Oxford Lab support NOS																			1	2	2	2			
Trawl survey																			0.375	0.5		0.5	0.494	0.446	
Bluefish/striped bass																				0.5	0.5	0.7	0.69		
CORPS OF ENGINEERS																									
Oyster recovery												0.5	0.23	0.54	0.54	0.57	3	3	3	4	3	2.25	2.25	1.97	
Ches Bay Envir Restor															0.75	0.34	1.05	1.2	0.5	1	1.5	2	0.264	1.55	
Non native oyster EIS																				0.2	0.6	0.273	0.42	0.45	
SAV demo																					1	0.5	0.45	0.94	
3-D model										0.6		0.5			0.4								0.848	0	
Shoreline erosion study																					0.58	0.975	0.214	0.246	
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE																									
Gateways and Watertrails							0.25					0.2	0.2				0.8	1.2	2	2.5	2.5	1.5	0.37	1.67	
Capt John Smith Trail																								0.15	
US FISH AND WILDLIFE																									
Base funding																									
Emergency striped bass study	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3													
Susquehanna River fish passage																					0.5	0.5			
US Dept. of Education																									
Bay education																					0.25			0.4	
	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	FY09

What Is the Commission?

The Chesapeake Bay Commission is a policy leader in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. As a tri-state legislative body representing Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, its mission is to identify critical environmental needs, evaluate public concerns, and ensure state and Federal actions to sustain the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay. The Commission works directly with the state General Assemblies and the U.S. Congress and serves as the legislative branch of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

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