



*Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region*

**Memorandum**

**Date:** February 8, 2006  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** John R. Lovell, Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee  
**Subject:** Comment on Virginia Funding Initiatives

*District of Columbia  
Bowie  
College Park  
Frederick County  
Gaithersburg  
Greenbelt  
Montgomery County  
Prince George's County  
Rockville  
Takoma Park  
Alexandria  
Arlington County  
Fairfax  
Fairfax County  
Falls Church  
Loudoun County  
Manassas  
Manassas Park  
Prince William County*

The Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee is requesting Board approval to send a letter to the Virginia General Assembly supporting efforts to increase funding for the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) to boost Chesapeake Bay restoration work.

As requested by a number of members at the January 2006 Board meeting, committee members reviewed various Bay funding initiatives currently before the Virginia General Assembly at our January meeting.

Former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner has proposed and new Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine is supporting the addition of \$200 million in surplus funds to the WQIF to provide funds specifically for upgrades to local government wastewater treatment plants in Virginia's portion of the Bay watershed. This would be a one-time appropriation in the current budget cycle and the committee recommends that COG support this initiative.

As stated in the proposed comment letter, the committee also recommends that COG comment on the need for a long-term stable source of revenue for the fund, which has fluctuated with the state's overall budget situation and in some years has not received any new money. Legislators have introduced a number of bills in this year's General Assembly session with proposals for a new dedicated revenue source for the fund. The committee recommends that COG comment on the need for such a dedicated funding source in general without endorsing any specific proposal.

A resolution authorizing the submission of these comments is attached and the committee respectfully requests its approval by the Board.