



*Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region*

April 13, 2005

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Fairfax County

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Manassas Park

Prince William County

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Chair, Chesapeake Executive Council  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Re: Support for the Creation of a Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and its 19 member local jurisdictions to express our support for the creation of a regional *Chesapeake Bay Financing Authority* as recommended by the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Blue Ribbon Finance Panel. Feedback from our member jurisdictions on the Panel's proposal indicated substantial support for establishment of a new financing authority, provided that: (1) existing and future contributions by local and state governments to fund Chesapeake Bay-related water quality measures are counted toward the capitalization of the authority; (2) the authority provides new funding for the restoration of the Bay and doesn't replace existing funding programs; and (3) COG be afforded the opportunity to formally review and concur in the recommendations for the proposed authority.

I have asked COG staff to transmit the full set of comments received from our members on the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program for consideration. The majority of comments focused on the proposed financing authority.

The Metropolitan Washington region has led efforts to reduce pollution entering local waters and the Chesapeake Bay, achieving the original 40-percent nutrient reduction goal by investing hundreds of millions of local dollars to upgrade all of the major wastewater treatment plants in the region with advanced treatment and by implementing some of the most innovative urban stormwater programs in the nation. However, the need for even greater nutrient reductions in the face of continued growth in the region will require further pollution reduction efforts from all sources to meet new water quality standards for the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. The proposed regional financing authority would provide local governments with another tool, in addition to traditional financing options, to continue our successful implementation of pollution reduction practices and programs.

State and federal funding support has been an important part of these local water quality improvement efforts. The proposed regional financing authority will enable us to continue making progress in reducing water pollution by sharing the funding commitment at all levels of government.

Thank you and your fellow Executive Council members for your support of the Blue Ribbon Panel's proposal. We look forward to working with you to continue the progress made to date in cleaning up the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Davis, Chair, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Board of Directors  
Mayor, City of Greenbelt

Enclosures