



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

Feb. 16, 2011

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

District of Columbia

*Bladensburg**

Bowie

College Park

Frederick

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

**Adjunct member*

Dear Rep. Goodlatte:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), I ask you to withdraw your amendment to the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution that eliminates EPA funding for oversight of the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay.

As we understand it, the amendment would prohibit EPA from spending any funds on oversight or implementation strategies to achieve the TMDL. Because the TMDL framework is required by consent decrees in federal court and this underlying mandate will continue, we do not think cutting off funding is the right approach.

As representatives of local governments in the largest metropolitan region of the Bay watershed, we have made major investments in projects to improve water quality and help restore the Bay, but we, too, have some concerns with the TMDL process.

COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee would welcome opportunities to meet with you and other stakeholders in the watershed to discuss how to best proceed with the restoration of the Bay.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Favola
Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

cc Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell
Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley
District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray

COG region congressional delegation