



*Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region*

May 7, 2007

The Honorable Robert Scott  
Co-chair, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force  
1201 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Davis  
Co-chair, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force  
2348 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Co-chair, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force  
1707 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Wayne T. Gilchrest  
Co-chair, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force  
2245 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

District of Columbia

Bladensburg\*

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Takoma Park

Alexandria

Arlington County

Fairfax

Fairfax County

Falls Church

Loudoun County

Manassas

Manassas Park

Prince William County

\*Adjunct member

Dear Congressmen Davis, Van Hollen, Scott and Gilchrest:

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and its 21 member local jurisdictions to express our support for funding the Small Watersheds Grant and the Targeted Watersheds Grant programs within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

It is our understanding that these two grant programs were among a number of Bay-related programs that the administration proposed either for elimination or reduced funding in its fiscal 2008 budget proposal. We believe that overall federal funding for the Bay should be increasing. However, we are particularly concerned about the two watershed grant programs because they are the only Bay-specific programs at the federal level that provide direct assistance to local government efforts to mitigate the water quality impacts of urban runoff.

Local governments in the Washington metropolitan region have spent millions of dollars to upgrade wastewater treatment plants through a funding partnership with state and federal governments. We are planning new expenditures to further reduce wastewater impacts and address stormwater issues. Adequate cost-share assistance would help to maximize progress. Appropriating funds for these two targeted grant programs will help, particularly if coupled with an increase in the grant ceiling for the Small Watersheds Grant Program. In particular, we support increasing the annual appropriation for this program to at least \$10 million a year and increasing the cap on individual awards to at least \$500,000. Funding for the Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watersheds Program (or its equivalent) should at least total the \$6 million authorized for it in FY 07.

Thank you for your leadership in seeking federal funds for the Bay restoration effort. We look forward to continue working with you and other members of Congress.

Sincerely,

Martin Nohe, Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Cc: Senator Barbara Mikulski  
Senator John Warner

Senator Benjamin Cardin  
Senator James Webb