



A legacy of regional cooperation, a commitment to a vibrant future

July 27, 2007

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson, Chairman
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Ranking Member

House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Conservation Title in 2007 Farm Bill

Dear Chairman Peterson and Ranking Member Goodlatte:

I am writing as Chair of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to urge your continued support for efforts to increase funding for conservation programs in the 2007 Farm Bill and, more specifically, for increased conservation funding for farmers in this region as a way to accelerate progress in the clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay.

We have supported the Conservation Title provisions put forward by our regional Congressional delegation in the Chesapeake's Health and Environmentally Sound Stewardship of Energy and Agriculture Act of 2007 (CHESSEA – H.R. 1766 and S. 1346). However, we also support other proposals for increasing conservation funding in the Chesapeake Bay region, such as the provisions included in H.R. 2419.

COG's 21 local government members in the national capital area primarily represent urban constituents. However, as partners in the broader effort to restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, we have a stake in how farmers in the region impact the Bay. We have heard directly from farmers and from other organizations in the watershed that the local farm community needs greater financial resources if we collectively are going to achieve the ambitious nutrient reduction goals set by the Chesapeake Bay Program while keeping agriculture a viable industry in our region.

More federal funding is needed in a number of sectors, not just agriculture, to match increased contributions by state and local governments in the region, and to enable the Bay restoration effort to meet its goals within the time lines required by federal statutes. More funding for farm conservation efforts in the region would be a good first step.

Sincerely,

Martin Nohe, Chair, Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee,
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Member, Prince William County Board of Supervisors

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

Copies of this correspondence provided to:

COG region congressional delegation members:

Representative Albert Wynn
Representative Roscoe Bartlett
Representative Christopher Van Hollen
Representative Steny Hoyer
Representative Frank Wolf
Representative James Moran
Representative Tom Davis



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July 27, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman
The Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Ranking Member

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

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Member, Prince William County Board of Supervisors

Copies of this correspondence provided to:

COG region congressional delegation members:

- Senator Barbara Mikulski
- Senator Ben Cardin
- Senator Jim Webb
- Senator John Warner