



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

May 17, 2011

Robert M. Summers
Maryland Secretary of the Environment
Office of the Secretary, 1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore MD 21230-1718
bsummers@mde.state.md.us

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 Secretary Summers:

I am writing on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to invite you, your representative or another member of the Maryland Bay Cabinet to participate in a Bay TMDL/WIP planning workshop we are hosting on June 16 from 1 – 3 p.m. Jeff Corbin, EPA's Special Adviser on Bay restoration, has committed to attend this meeting. On June 16, we will hear EPA's perspectives on local governments' role in watershed implementation planning and state and local representatives, including COG members, will be given an opportunity to present their ideas for improving the TMDL-WIP process.

COG and its Bay Policy Committee have a long record of involvement in the Bay restoration effort that predates the development of the 2000 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. Over the years, COG has hosted a number of meetings with EPA and other Bay Partner representatives. Virginia and Maryland officials have come to COG on a number of occasions to address Bay issues, as has the District of Columbia, which is both a Bay Program partner and a COG member.

The COG region comprises the largest urban area in the Bay watershed. About 5 million of the total Bay watershed population of 17 million lives in the COG region. The ongoing efforts of COG's member governments to reduce the environmental impacts of this large and growing population are crucial to the success of the overall Bay restoration effort.

We look forward to your agency's participation in this workshop. Please contact Karl Berger of COG staff at 202-992-3350, kberger@mwcog.org, to indicate your participation.

Looking forward to a continuation of the fruitful dialogue that EPA, the states and COG's members have had on Bay issues, I am...

Yours sincerely

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

Cc: CBPC members

(Invite letters also addressed to VA Natural Resources Secretary Doug Domenech, District of Columbia Environment Director Christophe Tulou)