

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 8, 2017

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

We write to express our support for efforts to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. As you finalize the budget request for Fiscal Year 2019, we request that you include \$73 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program.

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and a true national treasure. A commercial and recreational resource for millions, the Chesapeake Bay is a significant economic engine in the region, driving tourists to the area and helping sustain jobs in local fisheries, in commerce, and more.

In his State of the Union address in 1983, President Ronald Reagan committed to "begin the long, necessary effort to clean up a productive recreational area and a special natural resource – the Chesapeake Bay." This work continues today, and since the Chesapeake Bay Program's formation in 1983, significant progress has been made, with six states and the District of Columbia, 19 federal agencies, nearly 1,800 local governments, over 20 academic institutions, and more than 60 non-governmental organizations working together to implement state developed plans to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay. Through these state developed plans, the Chesapeake Bay Program is helping improve water quality, protect and restore the Bay's ecosystem, protect watersheds, and foster continued stewardship of the Bay and its watershed.

We must ensure that this important work continues and that federal funds remain available to support this effort. Without continued collaboration among stakeholders, progress on Chesapeake Bay restoration would be threatened and years of improvement could be reversed.

In developing the FY19 budget request, we urge the Administration to fulfill President Reagan's commitment to Chesapeake Bay restoration and include full funding for EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program

Very Truly Yours,



ROBERT WITTMAN
Member of Congress



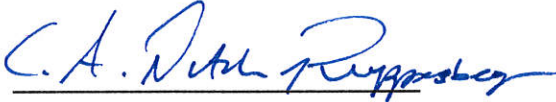
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Member of Congress



JOHN SARBANES
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



DUTCH RUPPERSBURGER
Member of Congress



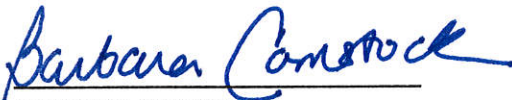
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ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
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BARBARA COMSTOCK
Member of Congress



DAVE BRAT
Member of Congress



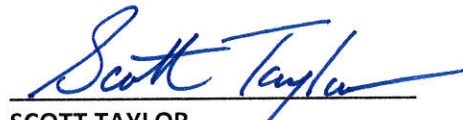
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A. DONALD MCEACHIN
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