

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our support for efforts to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, we request that you include \$73 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program in your Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request.

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.

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.

Through the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Chesapeake Bay's health is improving significantly. However, without continued collaboration among stakeholders this progress would be threatened. We must ensure that this important work continues, and that federal funds continue to be available to support this effort. To ensure continued progress in restoring the Chesapeake Bay, we urge you to include \$73 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program in your Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request.

Sincerely,



ROBERT J. WITTMAN
Member of Congress



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



ANDY HARRIS, M.D.
Member of Congress



JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBURGER
Member of Congress



STENY HOYER
Member of Congress



DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



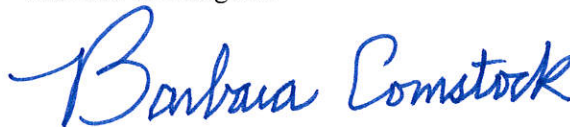
JOHN K. DELANEY
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BROWN
Member of Congress



JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



BARBARA COMSTOCK
Member of Congress



JOHN J. FASO
Member of Congress



A. DONALD MCEACHIN
Member of Congress



SCOTT TAYLOR
Member of Congress