



October 29, 2014



The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Office of the Governor
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

Dear Governor McAuliffe:



The undersigned organizations have joined together to urge your support for water quality funding to meet Virginia's commitments in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). We applaud your leadership and dedication to the WIP, especially the funding that was dedicated to these efforts in fiscal year 2015. These investments will greatly enhance work by localities and farmers to reduce polluted runoff. Work is progressing at the local level and we anticipate all previous funds to be obligated by, or shortly after the end of, calendar year 2014.



In order to continue to achieve WIP goals, our coalition respectfully requests \$50 million for fiscal year 2016 to continue stormwater improvements through the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. Past successes in water quality improvements suggest that the most effective path forward is a strong partnership between the State and local governments of all sizes.



Similarly, we ask for your continuing support of funding for the installation of effective best management practices and necessary technical assistance on agricultural lands. These efforts will reduce the flow of excess nutrients and sediment to local streams, rivers and the Bay. Virginia's agricultural funding needs report identifies a need of \$68 million for this effort.



The funding that has been allocated through fiscal year 2015 has kept Virginia on track to meet water quality restoration goals, however if such funding is not dedicated in fiscal year 2016, we risk falling short of our obligations. Given that the Water Quality Improvement Fund will not receive budget surplus funds this year, this funding is more imperative than ever.



Thank you for your consideration. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with your Administration to discuss this important request.

Sincerely,




Adrienne F. Kotula
Policy Specialist
James River Association



Randy Bartlett
President
Virginia Municipal Stormwater Association



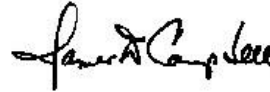
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