

Tari Moore
County Executive

Alfred C. Wein, Jr.
Director of Administration



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CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive
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February 15, 2013

Hon. Martin J. O'Malley
Governor, State of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor O'Malley:

We are writing in response to your letter of January 3, 2013 regarding our mutual interest in working toward cleaner water and a healthier Chesapeake Bay.

As you may be aware, Cecil County Government is a staunch proponent of efforts to ensure that the Chesapeake Bay continues to recover and that its many assets and attributes continue to thrive. Accordingly, we have established a long and laudable tradition of responsible growth management and environmental stewardship. It should be noted that we hold to the tenet that Smart Growth can be achieved in all regions of the State and that it would be most optimal to recognize the value of all of our efforts to battle against sprawl and environmental impairment. We believe respecting the validity of each jurisdictions policies and programs is the best method to achieve the desired goal.

Therefore, we would like to accept your invitation to meet with the Bay Cabinet so that a full and comprehensive discussion of the issues facing us can be had and that a fiscally responsible and reasonable program based on sound science can be agreed upon to clean up the Bay.

Our Director of Administration, Mr. Alfred C. Wein, Jr., can be contacted at either 410.996.8304 or awein@ccgov.org to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Tari Moore
County Executive

Robert J. Hodge
Council President



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
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January 3, 2013

The Honorable Jay L. Newcomb
President
Dorchester County Council
501 Court Lane
Cambridge, MD 21613-0026

Dear President Newcomb:

I'm writing to you because clean water and a healthy Chesapeake Bay are essential to Maryland's future. The Bay helps define who we are as Marylanders. Much of our unique culture and identity is tied to the Bay. It provides our beloved seafood, beautiful vistas and is one of our main recreational assets for citizens and visitors alike. It is the economic engine for much of the State.

In addition to its significant benefits to Maryland's identity and economy, restoring the health of the Bay generates jobs. Since January of 2007, Maryland has invested more than \$900 million in grants and loans for water quality projects, leveraged to a total of \$1.3 billion (including local and federal funds) in capital projects that are estimated to have generated as many as 17,000 jobs.

Marylanders have far more to gain from a restored Chesapeake Bay than our upstream neighbors – and much more to lose. The same pollution control practices that we are using to restore the Bay also protect the quality of our groundwater, streams, rivers and reservoirs. Abundant clean water is a foundation for our quality of life, the public health and our economic well-being. This is why I am troubled to hear some local leaders suggest that we delay work on water quality restoration due to the potential impact of sediments behind the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River. If Maryland's elected officials waver on Bay restoration, other states will not follow through on their commitments. It will be very difficult, if not impossible, to regain the momentum we have now for Bay restoration.

It is undeniable that the Susquehanna River is the Bay's largest tributary and is a source of the nutrient and sediment load to the Chesapeake Bay. That is why the entire Susquehanna watershed is included in the Bay restoration plan, that is why the impact of sediments behind the Dam were accounted for in the model of the Total Maximum Daily Load and that is why the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New York are focused on controlling pollution from their sources and are spending millions of dollars on restoration of their own portions of the watershed. Water quality monitoring in the Susquehanna River demonstrates that the upstream states are making significant progress in reducing pollutant loading to the Bay.

Maryland's streams, rivers and Bay tributaries are suffering from the same type of pollution as the Susquehanna River. Cleaning up the Susquehanna only solves part of the Bay's problem. Investing in local restoration is necessary to sustain our own water quality and quality of life. This effort must continue to accelerate if we are to achieve our water quality goals, even while we are continuing to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York and Pennsylvania to reduce the impact of the sediment buildup behind Conowingo Dam.

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The Honorable Jay L. Newcomb
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The counties are not alone in this effort to reclaim our Chesapeake Bay. This is a federal, State and local government partnership. I understand that there are concerns about the cost of restoring the Bay, but we should keep several factors in mind. First, any costs will be spread out over the next 13 years as we strive to meet our goals for 2025. Moreover, the Bay restoration blueprint provides the flexibility to develop measures to reduce pollution at a lower cost than currently estimated. And you can be assured that Maryland stands ready to provide financial assistance, as we have in the past.

This past legislative session, in addition to continuing our ongoing federal, State and local funding, we increased the Bay Restoration Fund by \$110 million per year, increased the Chesapeake and Coastal Trust Fund to \$25 million and increased capital funding for stormwater restoration projects by \$38 million. With the concurrence of the legislature, I expect to continue this increased funding in Fiscal Year 2014. We will also continue to seek additional funding from federal, State, local government and private sources.

One way to help lower costs is to work with the non-profit, independent state agency Maryland Environmental Service (MES). MES routinely provides stormwater and TMDL technical expertise and services across the State and even now is beginning work with several counties on stormwater restoration projects, maintenance and monitoring. For more information, please contact former Harford County Executive and current MES Director Jim Harkins at 410-729-8201 or jhark@menv.com.

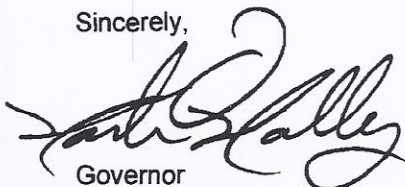
Another possibility for providing assistance is the Watershed Assistance Collaborative. The Collaborative is a partnership that provides services and technical assistance to local governments to advance restoration activities, including environmental financing and wetland, stream and stormwater management projects. For more information, please contact Matt Fleming from the Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8719.

As we look for ways to reduce costs and identify funding, it is absolutely critical that we continue our ongoing work to restore the Bay. The longer we wait, it will only become costlier and more difficult to restore the Bay. Maryland's citizens need the hard work, creativity and unwavering support of all of our State and local leaders on this effort.

I have directed the Secretaries of Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Planning – my Bay Cabinet – to redouble their efforts to work with State and local leaders to ensure that the most effective and least expensive pollution control measures are being used to accomplish our goals. To do this, we need to work with you and your most committed staff. If the County Council would like to meet with the Bay Cabinet members, please contact Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Robert M. Summers at 410-537-4187 or bsummers@mde.state.md.us.

We are on the brink of an historic cleanup. We are making substantive progress toward achieving our goals. For the health of the Bay, our local water quality and Maryland's economy, we cannot afford to go backward. Please join me as we continue to make real progress in restoring the national treasure that is the Chesapeake Bay. Thank you for your hard work and your dedication to the citizens of Maryland.

Sincerely,


Governor

cc: Chris Machedo
Mike Moulds