



February 3, 2016

Board of Directors

John Applegate
Alyson Flournoy
Robert Glicksman
David Hunter
Alice Kaswan
Alexandra Klass
Thomas McGarity
Sidney Shapiro
Amy Sinden
Robert R.M. Verchick

By First Class Mail and Electronic Mail

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Maryland State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

As one of seven jurisdictions within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Maryland has an essential role to play in restoring the Chesapeake Bay. We are approaching the midpoint of the groundbreaking 16-year plan to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment loads to the Bay and the state has a long way to go to ensure that the ultimate goals are met. The recent water crises in Flint, Toledo, Des Moines, and many other communities around the country are calls to action, reminders of the costs of ignoring our nation's many impaired waterways. Meeting your commitments under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) will help restore the many local streams, lakes, and other waters that the Department of the Environment have declared are impaired.

Advisory Council

Patricia Bauman
Frances Beinecke
Eula Bingham
W. Thompson Comerford, Jr.
Sally Greenberg
John Passacantando
Henry Waxman
Robert Weissman

The Center for Progressive Reform (www.progressivereform.org), a non-partisan network of working academics at graduate schools across the country who specialize in the design and implementation of programs to protect public health, worker and consumer safety, and the environment, has just released the report *Countdown to 2017: Five Years In, Chesapeake Bay TMDL at Risk Without EPA Enforcement*. The report concludes that without substantial improvement in the performance of the seven Bay states, this latest effort to restore water quality in the Chesapeake Bay will fail. The report is based on the most recent data from the Chesapeake Bay Program's watershed model, which is released each year to track progress made by each state and each pollution source sector.

Specifically, the report shows that substantial investments by Maryland in nutrient reduction upgrades at major municipal wastewater treatment plants have been very successful, but they cannot compensate for a lack of progress in other sectors, such as agriculture, stormwater, and septic systems. These upgrades are expected to allow Maryland to meet its overall target for 2017, but further upgrades will not be available to the state in the future for meeting its final 2025 goals. If Maryland is to have any hope of fulfilling its commitments under the Bay TMDL, it must find a way to deal with nutrient pollution from the other sectors. Some very important opportunities to address these sectors lie ahead, including passage of legislation addressing the disposal of excess poultry litter, enforcing municipal stormwater permits and ensuring adequate funding to support stormwater retrofit projects, and maintaining the state's commitments to utilizing best available technology on all new septic systems in the state. Maryland's goals under the Bay TMDL are within reach, but will require your full support.

We urge you as Governor to take a greater role in overseeing the state's efforts to meet its obligations under the Bay TMDL. Only when all seven jurisdictions share equally in the responsibility for restoring their local waters can the Chesapeake Bay be restored. We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Rena Steinzor
Past President and Member Scholar, Center for
Progressive Reform



Evan Isaacson
Chesapeake Bay Policy Analyst
Center for Progressive Reform

cc: Benjamin H. Grumbles, Secretary of the Department of the Environment