



February 3, 2016

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By First Class Mail and Electronic Mail

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Room 225, Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

As one of seven jurisdictions within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Pennsylvania 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 Commonwealth 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 also help restore the many local streams, lakes, and other waters that the Department of Environmental Protection has declared are impaired.

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 Pennsylvania is by far the largest contributor of nitrogen pollution in the Bay. If Pennsylvania does not meet its commitments regarding the Bay TMDL, the entire restoration effort will be in jeopardy. Unfortunately, as our report shows, it is a near certainty that the Commonwealth will not achieve the Bay TMDL 2017 interim nitrogen reduction goals due to unacceptably high pollution loads from agriculture, stormwater and septic systems. In fact, nitrogen pollution has actually *increased* during the last five years while Pennsylvania was supposed to be joining its partners working toward meeting the Bay TMDL goals.

We applaud Pennsylvania's recent creation of a Chesapeake Bay Office within the Department of Environmental Protection and the plan to hire dozens of new inspectors. However, as the Department's new Chesapeake Bay Restoration Strategy discusses, thanks to a long history of ignoring the state's clean water needs, several hundreds of millions of dollars are likely needed to restore local waterways. Without the necessary funding, the state will be unable to implement its new strategy. We understand that you will soon release a document explaining how you plan to raise such resources and look forward to examining it in detail.

We urge you as Governor to take a greater role in overseeing the Commonwealth'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: John H. Quigley, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection