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February 3, 2016

*By First Class Mail and Electronic Mail*

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe  
Office of the Governor  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor McAuliffe,

As one of seven jurisdictions within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, Virginia 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 Quality have declared are impaired.

The Center for Progressive Reform ([www.progressivereform.org](http://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 Virginia is on track to meet its overall 2017 interim nitrogen reduction goals largely because loading from its wastewater sector has decreased more than any other sector in any other state in the Bay region. However, nitrogen loads from stormwater have risen faster in Virginia than in any other jurisdiction in the Bay watershed. Virginia's story under the Bay TMDL thus exemplifies two of the biggest trends for the region as a whole: exemplary performance from publicly owned treatment works but failure to implement the urban and agricultural runoff controls that are essential to meeting the requirements of the Bay TMDL. As discussed in *Countdown to 2017*, Virginia, like all jurisdictions must expand their programs, policies, and regulatory coverage over other major source sectors of nutrient and sediment pollution, such as agriculture, stormwater, and septic systems.

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: David K. Paylor, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality