



October 28, 2015

Mr. Charlie Stek, Chair  
Chesapeake Bay Program Citizens Advisory Committee  
c/o Jessica Blackburn  
3310 Market Street, Suite A  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Dear Chairman Stek,

On behalf of Governor Terry McAuliffe and the Chesapeake Executive Council, thank you for submitting the CBP's Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) 2015 Annual Report and Recommendations in advance of the annual Executive Council meeting. The Executive Council values the CAC for its independent perspective on Bay watershed cleanup efforts and for representing the citizens of the Chesapeake Bay region who live and work in this great Watershed. Because most of the work to implement the new Watershed Agreement will play out on the local level, we will be relying on you and your committee more than ever.

The Executive Council and individual partners have already taken action on several CAC's recommendations. In response to CAC's recommendation for advocating for federal funding opportunities and untapped resources, the Executive Council signed a joint letter to Congress in support of the *Rivers of the Chesapeake* proposal. Several individual jurisdictions also sent letters of support to Secretaries Jewell and Vilsack. In response to CAC's recommendation to make workplans more locally relevant, the Partnership agreed to modify the workplan template to provide a geographic focus. Now, engaged citizens will be able to track restoration work in their own backyards and look for opportunities to participate in that work. And, in response to CAC and STAC's recommendations for "evidence based assessment," the Partnership has been working closely with the jurisdictions on their Best Management Practices (BMP) programs and is currently reviewing each of the plans the jurisdictions submitted.

I have asked the CBP Management Board to work with you on your additional recommendations beginning with a more detailed discussion at the next MB meeting in November. I look forward to working with you and CAC's membership and providing you with additional updates in the

coming months. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these issues in greater detail, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Molly Ward". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Molly" and last name "Ward" clearly distinguishable.

Molly Ward, Chair  
CBP Principals Staff Committee

cc: Management Board Members  
Goal Implementation Team Chairs  
CBPO Director, Deputy and Associate Directors  
Jessica Blackburn, CAC Coordinator