



# *Agreement*

ESTABLISHING THE

## **BUILDERS FOR THE BAY PROGRAM**

AMONG

**THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, CENTER FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION,  
and THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS**

*WHEREAS*, the Chesapeake Bay is America's largest estuary and a precious resource for all citizens in the vast area drained by its rivers; and

*WHEREAS*, the Chesapeake Executive Council (comprised of the Governors of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission) has established the Chesapeake Bay Program to oversee its restoration and protection; and

*WHEREAS*, the Chesapeake Executive Council has recently adopted the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement, a detailed blueprint for the next decade of the Program which establishes a great many specific and far-reaching goals; and

*WHEREAS*, a number of those goals set national precedents for addressing issues related to development and preservation of land to protect the waters of the Chesapeake and the rivers that feed into it; and

*WHEREAS*, an additional three million residents are expected to be living in the watershed in the next twenty years; and

*WHEREAS*, in recent years a great deal has been learned about means to reduce the impact of new development on nearby water bodies

through the employment of site design practices which restore natural hydrology, retain rainwater onsite, reduce reliance on constructed conveyances, and otherwise prevent the erosion and scouring of natural stream beds; and

*WHEREAS*, such design practices can have additional benefits which protect habitat, preserve wetlands and buffer streams, in support of other goals of the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement; and

*WHEREAS*, much effective work of our organizations has already resulted in the adoption of improved development practices in places such as Fredericksburg, Virginia and Frederick, Maryland; and

*WHEREAS*, the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay fosters partnerships for the restoration of the Bay and is the leading supporter of watershed restoration organizations at the regional and local level in the Chesapeake basin;

*WHEREAS*, the Center for Watershed Protection is the leading non-profit organization in America providing technical assistance for better site design; and

*WHEREAS*, the National Association of Home Builders is the nation's leading organization of professionals engaged in the construction of new residential and commercial properties; and



*Now THEREFORE*, we, the undersigned, commit to the establishment of a program of BUILDERS FOR THE BAY, through which we will work together voluntarily to assure that site design practices are achieved on a wide scale to assist in the attainment of the land use goals of the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement. We will accomplish this through the following actions:

- We will work to establish partnerships of National Association of Home Builders affiliates and local watershed organizations to work with state and local governments to make necessary changes to rules and regulations which currently discourage such site design practices;
- We will obtain and provide the necessary funding and technical assistance to support these efforts;
- We will seek to establish at least six such local partnerships in the first year of the Program, and six more in the second year;
- We will establish a program to annually recognize those individuals, organizations and development companies which have most contributed to the success of BUILDERS FOR THE BAY; and
- We will continually monitor our results and take steps to improve or expand our efforts, as appropriate, in order to assure that BUILDERS FOR THE BAY becomes a national model.

Signed this third day of December, 2001, in Washington, D.C.