



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **New Chesapeake Bay Agreement Signed D.C. Mayor Williams Selected Executive Council Chair**

**(June 28, 2000) FRIENDSHIP/ROSE HAVEN, MD** -- A new agreement that will guide the next decade of restoration in the Chesapeake Bay watershed was signed today by the Chesapeake Executive Council. The agreement contains commitments that will improve water quality and protect living resources in the Bay and its tributaries. It will also remove the Bay from the federal list of impaired waters by 2010.

This action by the Executive Council -- Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening; Pennsylvania Governor Thomas J. Ridge; Virginia Governor James S. Gilmore, III; District of Columbia Mayor Anthony A. Williams; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner; and Chesapeake Bay Commission Chair Bill Bolling -- culminates two years of work to develop the new agreement. The jurisdictions and governmental bodies represented in the Executive Council lead the cooperative Chesapeake Bay Program.

Council members also selected Mayor Williams to serve as chair of the Executive Council for the next year. Gov. Glendening has served as chair since 1997.

***Chesapeake 2000: A Watershed Partnership*** is the most comprehensive and far-reaching agreement in the Bay Program's history. The primary goal of the new agreement is to improve water quality sufficiently to sustain the living resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries and to maintain that water quality into the future. This will mean setting increased nutrient reduction goals and for the first time setting sediment reduction goals Baywide.

Meeting these water quality standards by 2010 will preclude the need for regulatory measures slated to begin in 2011. EPA has placed the Bay and its tidal waters on the impaired waters list for an over abundance of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus.

The agreement has five sections containing commitments to protect and restore living resources, vital habitats, and water quality through sound land use by promoting stewardship and engaging communities throughout the 64,000 square mile watershed. The agreement is designed to build on past restoration actions and will continue all Bay Program commitments outlined in previous agreements or Executive Council directives. Specific restoration commitments include:

- Increase the number of native oysters tenfold by 2010
- Restore blue crabs by establishing harvest targets and implementing complementary state management plans Baywide
- New wetlands restoration and protection goals
- Reduce the loss rate of farm and forest land to harmful sprawl development in the watershed by 30 percent by 2012
- Permanently preserve from development 20 percent of the lands in the watershed by 2010
- Strive for zero release of chemical contaminants from point sources by 2010
- Provide a meaningful outdoor Bay or stream experience for every school student in the watershed before graduation from high school, beginning with the Class of 2005
- Expand public access by 30 percent by 2010, and add 500 miles of water trails by 2005

***Chesapeake 2000*** becomes the third Bay Agreement written to guide the actions of the multi-jurisdictional Chesapeake Bay Program. The first agreement, creating the Bay Program, was signed in 1983. A second was signed in 1987 and amended in 1992. Scientists, local government officials and conservation leaders all played a role in developing the new agreement. The process also included considerable public input and review.

Most commitments in the new agreement are scheduled for completion within ten years. It is already being used to guide the use of Bay Program partner resources.

**STATEMENTS FROM**  
**CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**Mayor Anthony A. Williams, District of Columbia, Incoming Chair**

“It’s important that we provide our children with clean, usable natural resources, so they can enjoy our city and the region. By establishing a Green Government initiative, we’ve achieved a 40 percent reduction in pollutants that spoil our waterways. But to rejuvenate the Chesapeake – and revitalize the Anacostia River – we need a commitment from the whole community. It’s cooperation between our local and federal partners that will improve the condition of our environment.”

**Governor Parris N. Glendening, Maryland, Outgoing Chair**

“The new Bay Agreement offers a new perspective on cleaning up the Chesapeake and its tributaries. The core theme of individual stewardship, the ideas that ‘I am responsible,’ and ‘What I do does make a difference,’ resounds throughout the document. In crafting this Agreement, we listened carefully to what people had to say. We understood the importance of developing a document that was inclusive of all the Bay’s citizens. Our goals and commitments were based on good science and we leavened the document with common sense while targeting real-world results. Today, we have an Agreement that will work throughout the watershed. This Agreement takes us a long way towards our goals of a healthy, productive, living Chesapeake Bay, a restored Chesapeake Bay that will be our proudest legacy and our proudest achievement.”

**Governor James S. Gilmore, III, Virginia**

“The Chesapeake Bay and its great tributary rivers represent a way of life, a place of recreation and of refuge, and an essential resource for the prosperity of our entire region. I am proud, on behalf of all Virginians, to join our Chesapeake Bay Agreement partners in this renewal of our common goals to preserve, protect and enhance the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.”

**Administrator Carol M. Browner, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

“Today’s action reflects the Clinton-Gore Administration’s ongoing commitment to work with local communities to protect America’s environment for this generation and future generations. By taking these vital steps to improve water quality and restore wetlands in the Chesapeake Bay area, we will protect one of our nation’s greatest national treasures, while significantly increasing public health protections.”

**Senator Bill Bolling, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Commission**

“Today we execute the Chesapeake 2000 agreement and celebrate the cooperative partnership that is the hallmark of our Chesapeake Bay restoration effort. Achieving the lofty goals in Chesapeake 2000 will require money, hard work and the continued cooperative efforts of government, the private sector and individual citizens as we each seek to be responsible stewards of the Bay. The Chesapeake Bay Commission will redouble its efforts in the Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania General Assemblies to help make the promise of Chesapeake 2000 a reality. I am very proud to sign this agreement today on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.”