

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2016

Chesapeake Bay Executive Council
410 Severn Avenue
Suite 112
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

Dear Executive Council Members,

Thank you for your ongoing work restoring the Chesapeake Bay and consideration of implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act's Independent Evaluator.

Our April 10, 2015 letter to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council outlines and establishes our guiding principles and suggestions for an operational model for the Chesapeake Bay Independent Evaluator (IE). We still believe these ideas provide a helpful framework to guide and focus the Evaluator's role in the program. After review and consideration of several options we believe that an IE convened by the National Academies of Science with the participation of institutions of higher learning meets the criteria outlined by law and would support the shared goal of a healthy Chesapeake Bay.

The National Academies of Science (NAS) as IE convener would avoid any potential conflict of interest issues and would establish the IE outside of the Environmental Protection Agency. The NAS is a recognized science-based body that has a track record of independence. While not an institution of higher learning, NAS should actively involve the expertise, participation and guidance from institutions of higher learning within the Chesapeake Bay watershed with excellence in marine science, policy evaluation and work relating to complex environmental restoration activities.

Thank you for your continued efforts. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to improve ongoing Bay restoration activities. Thank you for considering our thoughts as you consider implementation of the Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Wittman
U.S. House of Representatives



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator