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May 25, 2017

Governor Terry McAuliffe, Chair
Chesapeake Executive Council
Office of the Governor
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: LGAC 2017 Annual Report and Recommendations

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

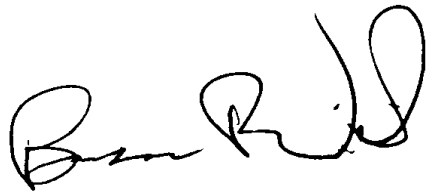
On behalf of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), I am pleased to present the attached 2017 Annual Report and Recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council.

We want to take this opportunity to publicly recognize the value of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. Since its formation in 1983, the Chesapeake Bay Program has provided the infrastructure, innovation, and resources needed to support watershed restoration efforts. Together we have made significant progress toward restoring the Chesapeake Bay, and we are gaining momentum.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you and other members of the Executive Council who have demonstrated a commitment to supporting restoration and protection activities throughout the watershed. Specifically, the members of LGAC want to acknowledge the great work of all the jurisdictions in following through with the commitments outlined in the *2016 Resolution to Support Local Government Engagement*. We appreciate the dedication of Executive Council members in speaking out on behalf of clean water and in helping to raise awareness about the economic and environmental benefits of investing public funds in local watershed restoration efforts. A special thank you to you, Governor McAuliffe, for leading the effort with your Public Service Announcement in support of local government involvement in Bay Restoration.

Finally, we would like to thank West Virginia and Delaware for appointing local government officials from their respective jurisdictions to serve on the Local Government Advisory Committee. We remain hopeful that an appointment will be made by Governor Cuomo so we can achieve watershed-wide representation on the Committee. With full representation of the diverse communities across the watershed, we will be able to continue building momentum to improve local waters throughout the entire watershed.

I look forward to discussing our recommendations with you and the other members of the Executive Council when we meet on June 8, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce R. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Williams".

Bruce R. Williams, Chair, Local Government Advisory Committee

Cc: Chesapeake Executive Council
Nicholas DiPasquale, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program

Enclosure



Annual Report to the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council June 2017

During this, the year of the Midpoint Assessment of progress towards achieving the pollution reduction targets established in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, the Local Government Advisory Committee is pleased to report that local government engagement in the restoration effort is growing.

LGAC joins the Executive Council in advancing Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and protection efforts by continuing to support the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership.

Without the Chesapeake Bay Program, local, regional, state, and watershed-wide efforts progress will be thwarted, possibly undoing decades of work to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Since the CBP Partnership came into existence in 1983, significant resources have been dedicated to developing and administering watershed-related programs at the state and federal level. However, if we are to meet the pollutant reduction targets established in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL (Bay TMDL), more resources, including funding and technical assistance, must be targeted to local implementation.

In order to continue our efforts on the ground, and deliver the following two recommendations in this year's report, the CBP Partnership must endure.

1. Continue to Support Local Government Engagement Efforts

All of the jurisdictions have been working diligently to engage local governments more broadly across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Most notably, the jurisdictions have all taken significant steps to better engage local governments in the development of Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). Members of the Local Government Advisory Committee are actively engaged in advising your staff on how to improve communication and engagement. We believe that every local government official in the Bay watershed should have access to timely, accurate and reliable information about the clean-up efforts and a clear understanding of the role of local governments in meeting the pollution reduction goals established in the Bay TMDL.

LGAC recommends that members of the Executive Council continue to actively support local government engagement in Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan development and implementation.

2. Increase the Access to Technical Assistance

Despite the vast array of technical assistance services being delivered in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, far too many local governments lack the technical capacity to develop, implement, and sustain robust pollution reduction strategies necessary to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Local governments have shared with LGAC the many obstacles they face when accessing technical assistance, ranging from the length of time it takes to receive funding after applying for technical assistance to the accountability for funding going to the states. Newly permitted and rural communities often face the greatest hindrance to accessing technical assistance due to stringent requirements and the lack of capacity and awareness to

apply for assistance.

We recommend that the Chesapeake Bay Program be charged with conducting an evaluation of the nature, sufficiency, and scope of technical assistance resources and programs available to local governments for the purpose of establishing new, re-tool existing, or expanding state and/or federal programs to achieve greater effectiveness. We also recommend members of the Executive Council identify and support technical assistance models that offer the greatest potential for success.

As your advisors on issues related to local government engagement, we stand ready to fully support the Bay Program Partners in achieving our collective vision for a clean and healthy Chesapeake Bay Watershed.