



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

News Release

410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109 • Annapolis, MD 21403

1 (800) YOUR BAY • www.chesapeakebay.net

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CONTACT:

Rachel Felver, Director of Communications
(410) 267-5740; rfelver@chesapeakebay.net

Chesapeake Executive Council Signs Resolution in Support of Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan elected chair of Executive Council

Annapolis, MD – Today, at the annual meeting of the [Chesapeake Executive Council](#), representatives from the six Chesapeake Bay watershed states, the District of Columbia and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, signed a resolution in support of the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership. The Chesapeake Executive Council, established in 1983, is responsible for guiding the Chesapeake Bay Program’s policy agenda and setting conservation and restoration goals. Members include the governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on behalf of the federal government. Federal law and practice prohibited EPA from signing this resolution due to the advocacy statements contained within.

The resolution calls upon the President and the United States Congress to continue the current level of federal support for the Chesapeake Bay Program and the participating partners for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, including the active, coordinating role of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office. It also calls for science, monitoring, modeling and restoration to be continued with the full participation of local, state and federal agencies and private sector entities as appropriate.

“We urge the President and Congress to continue the funding for this federal-state partnership. Without doubt, it’s the reason that the Bay’s water quality has shown recent improvements,” said Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf. “But the partnership works best when it recognizes each state’s differences and challenges, and supports each state’s unique approach. Pennsylvania’s role as the source of the Bay means that we’re focusing on clean water where we live, with the added benefit of value to all residents of the partnership states.”

The Executive Council also elected Maryland Governor Larry Hogan as their new Chair, succeeding Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, who became chair on January 1, 2015. Under Governor McAuliffe’s leadership, the Executive Council oversaw the release of 25 [management strategies](#) that outline the plans the Chesapeake Bay Program will take to achieve the goals and outcomes of the [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#), as well as the landmark funding agreement between EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to commit an additional \$28 million dollars to enhance federal and state investments in Pennsylvania to accelerate nutrient reductions.

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“It has been my honor to serve as Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Executive Council for the last two and a half years” said Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. “We are seeing real, measurable progress in water quality and habitat in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries which bodes well for the future of the ecology of the bay and the significant economic activity it supports. It is time to forcefully build on our success and continue to make the necessary state and federal investments in restoration, science and public engagement that have been the hallmark of this partnership.”

The Executive Council also heard from the Chesapeake Bay Program’s three Advisory Committees, who also voiced their support for the partnership. These committees represent citizens, local governments and scientific and technical interests from across the watershed.

"Now more than ever, we must work together to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay”, said Maryland Governor Larry Hogan. “Our administration has invested more than \$3 billion in Bay restoration efforts, fully funded the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and Program Open Space, and expanded innovative partnerships to preserve this priceless resource and national treasure we call home. As the newly elected chair of the Executive Council, I pledge to be a fierce advocate for greater environmental progress and deeper collaboration upstream and throughout the Bay watershed."

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The Chesapeake Bay Program is a regional partnership that has coordinated and conducted the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since its creation in 1983. Members of the Chesapeake Executive Council include the governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; the mayor of the District of Columbia; the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the federal government. This group is responsible for setting the Chesapeake Bay Program’s policy agenda. To learn more, visit www.chesapeakebay.net.