



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

January 5, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Subcommittee Chairman Murkowski:

I write today to thank you for supporting full funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program in the Chairman's Mark of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. As Governor and Chairman of the Chesapeake Executive Council, I appreciate your inclusion of this top federal priority for Maryland. This federal funding plays a critical role in the success of our ongoing Bay restoration efforts.

I understand you will be negotiating long-term legislation to fund the government in the coming weeks. As these discussions move forward, I urge you to work with your colleagues to keep the \$73 million funding level for the Chesapeake Bay Program in the FY2018 appropriations bill. Maintaining the current level of federal support for the Bay Program is essential to improving the waterway's health and ensuring that the federal government remains a leader in coordinating such efforts. The state-federal partnership has been hailed as a model conservation and restoration program – a successful example of cooperative federalism – on an unprecedented scale. Furthermore, restoration of the Bay is central to a healthy economy, and some studies estimate its value could reach \$130 billion annually.

Again, thank you for your leadership in maintaining this critical funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Director of Federal Relations, Tiffany Waddell, at tiffany.waddell@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan
Governor

Cc:

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

The Honorable Richard Shelby

The Honorable Lamar Alexander

The Honorable Susan Collins

The Honorable Lindsey Graham

The Honorable Roy Blunt

The Honorable Jerry Moran

The Honorable John Hoeven

The Honorable John Boozman

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

The Honorable James Lankford

The Honorable Steve Daines

The Honorable John Kennedy

The Honorable Marco Rubio