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