

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 19, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

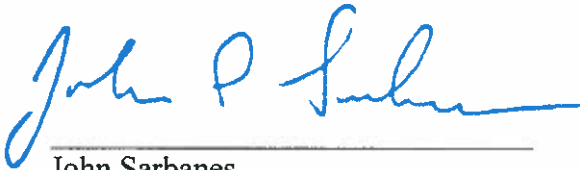
We write to bring to your attention an invitation by the Chesapeake Bay Commission to brief you on the success of the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership. While the proposed date of May 5th has passed with no response, the Commission is more than happy to work with you to find a mutually available alternative. We urge you to give the Commission's invitation all due consideration, as we believe the members, representing the states most involved in and impacted by the health of the Chesapeake Bay, offer an invaluable perspective on the current state-federal partnership to restore the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay Commission is a tristate legislative assembly with representatives from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Established in 1980 following a state-led study, the Chesapeake Bay Commission assists all three jurisdictions as they work together to manage the Chesapeake Bay's resources, a testament to the local, cooperative nature of efforts to restore and protect the Bay. The membership of the Commission is unique, with fifteen bipartisan legislators, three cabinet-level secretaries, and three citizen appointees. Current members include "a lifelong farmer, an environmental planner, a former Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer for a Fortune 250 corporation, a former judge, a CEO of a construction and contracting firm, a retired Navy Rear Admiral and an owner of a multi-generational family-run oyster company."

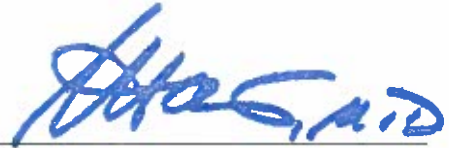
As a signatory to the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, the Commission is a leader in the state-federal Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership. Its members have a strong understanding of how Bay states are working with their federal partners to efficiently and effectively restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed, an economic engine for the region worth over \$100 billion annually. With federal oversight, support and funding, state and local leaders are making better decisions about how to restore impaired waters and reduce pollution loads. The Commission is well-situated to speak to how the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's federal partners, including the Environmental Protection Agency, can further this collaborative relationship.

We strongly encourage you to meet with the Chesapeake Bay Commission to discuss the successful future of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



John Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress