



HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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March 27, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 2050

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the 320,000 residents of Howard County, MD, a jurisdiction within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, I urge you to continue funding the federal government's Chesapeake Bay Program.

For years, the federal government has been an important partner to Howard County and all the watershed jurisdictions. Originally created under President Ronald Reagan, the program is a model of a bi-partisan, effective partnership. We understand that there are many issues that your Administration must weigh and consider, but the Bay is critical to the lives of many.

The Chesapeake Bay Program has shown consistent improvement in cleaning the Bay, thereby improving public health and the regional economy. However, record rains last year put more pollution into our waterways and caused the Bay's health to drop for the first time in a decade. To cut funding from the program now would undo years of progress and exacerbate conditions during this critical moment.

If we do not invest in cleaning and protecting the Chesapeake Bay, we put public health at risk. Polluted runoff from the Bay can lead to drinking water carrying increased risk of cancer, nervous system deformities in infants, hemorrhaging of the spleen, and other problems. The fish, crabs, oysters, and other seafood we consume could also be harmful if the water they come from is not clean. The 18 million people who live in the Bay watershed are depending on clean water and food. Cuts to the cleanup program would threaten all our health.

In addition to its environmental significance, the Chesapeake Bay is an economic necessity for the state of Maryland. Regionally, about 20,000 construction jobs are created from each \$1 billion invested in water projects and in the last 20 years we have seen a 43% surge in environmental industry jobs. Our region's economy also depends upon the seafood industry which, in turn, depends upon a healthy Chesapeake Bay. We also must consider the economic impact of tourism and recreation on the Bay. Roughly \$2.03 billion and 32,025 jobs are generated each year in Maryland from our recreational boating industry alone. If you were to cut funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program, it would throw the economy of Howard County, and the region, into jeopardy.

The future of my county, and many others, depends upon the continuation of a fully-funded Chesapeake Bay Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Calvin Ball". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C" and a stylized "B".

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive