

July 22, 2015

Chesapeake Executive Council
Governor Terry McAuliffe, Chair
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street, Third Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Members of the Chesapeake Executive Council:

The undersigned are united in an interfaith concern for clean water for all. Water is the fundamental source of life, a sacred gift from our Creator, and interconnects us with all of creation. And yet water quality in the Chesapeake Bay region continues to be threatened, natural streams continue to suffer degradation from unchecked agricultural waste, and urban waterways continue to be defiled by polluted runoff.

Together we recognize the moral imperative to restore balance to the Earth for the mutual benefit of both people and nature. As our rivers and streams, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay, continue to degrade, the poor and vulnerable will bear the brunt of this impact first and foremost. As rivers rage with excessive polluted runoff, urban areas flood, causing destruction and economic burdens on those impacted. Our waters are meant to provide food and recreation, and yet, most rivers in the Watershed are unsafe to swim in, and their bounty is unfit for consumption. This is simply not how our Creator intended it...and we feel it is our duty to be the voice for creation.

We take seriously this responsibility to be faithful stewards of our local waters and the Chesapeake Bay. We, in turn, look to you, distinguished members of the Chesapeake Executive Council, to responsibly lead efforts to restore clean water in our region. This is a collective responsibility: we strive to do our part, and we ask you to do yours.

We ask that at the upcoming July 23rd Executive Council meeting, you reaffirm your commitment to strong leadership in the Bay restoration effort. We ask that you stand behind the commitments that your jurisdictions have made through state Watershed Implementation Plans and other agreements. We ask that you work together to achieve restored balance to our waterways, for the common good. You have been blessed with a tremendous opportunity to create positive change, for us today and for future generations.

The upcoming 2017 mid-point assessment for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) will be a moment of reckoning for the Bay restoration effort. While we celebrate pollution reductions achieved as a result of tireless efforts of citizens and leaders across the watershed, we are concerned that efforts to reach TMDL reduction milestones are grossly behind schedule. This is inadequate. If our generation will not accept responsibility for this, who will?

The effort to restore clean water through the federal TMDL and state plans and commitments is not merely a technical exercise. It is a promise we must keep to each other, to future generations, and to our Creator.

When you gather on July 23rd, be willing to take the challenging path, and re-commit to that work, with spirit and heart. We have a sacred duty to lead our generation in the work that must be done. There is no greater responsibility...there is no greater calling.

In hope, faith, and confidence in your leadership,

The Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland

The Reverend Mary Gaut, Interim General Presbyter, Presbytery of Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland

The Reverend Wolfgang D. Herz-Lane, Bishop, Delaware-Maryland Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Baltimore, Maryland

Denominational Leaders:

The Reverend Dr. John R. Deckenback, Conference Minister, United Church of Christ, Central Atlantic Conference, Baltimore, Maryland

The Right Reverend Susan E Goff, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia

The Right Reverend Shannon Johnston, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia


The Reverend James L. Moseley, Executive Presbyter, New Castle Presbytery, Delaware-MD Eastern Shore, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Newark, Delaware

Dr. Rajwant Singh, Chairman, Sikh Council on Religion and Education and Secretary, Guru Gobind Singh Foundation, Sikh Spiritual Center, Rockville, Maryland

The Rev. J. Patterson Watkins, Missionary for the Care of God's Creation, United Methodist Church, New York, New York

Signatories Representing their Congregation or Faith-Based Organization:

Imam Hammad Ahmad, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Baltimore, Maryland

, Woodbrook Baptist Church, Lutherville, Maryland [*requested their name not be shared on this public webpage*]

John Ballenger, Pastor, Woodbrook Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Anne Booher, Communicant, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore, Maryland

Rev. Diana Carroll, Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Annapolis, Maryland

Peter Cooper, Earth Care Committee & Master Watershed Steward, WOODS Memorial Presbyterian Church, Severna Park, Maryland

Patricia Cornman, Chair - Environmental Stewardship Action Group, Maryland Presbyterian Church, Pikesville, Maryland

Rev. John J. Dillon, Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Derwood, Maryland

Lorne Field, Vice Chair, Committee on Stewardship of Creation, Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, Chesterfield, Virginia

Cindy Freland, Office Manager, Good Samaritan Lutheran Church, Lanham, Maryland

Gary Gillespie, Executive Director, Central Maryland Ecumenical Council, Baltimore, Maryland

Daniel Gross, Rector, Emmanuel Church, Chester Parish, Chestertown, Maryland

Rev. Dellyne Hinton, Vice President, Central Maryland Ecumenical Council, Baltimore, Maryland

Deacon David Kepley, Providence Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, Virginia

Sarah Lewis, Pastor, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Derwood, Maryland

Lucia Lloyd, Priest, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Heathsville, Virginia

Joelle Novey, Director, Interfaith Power & Light (MD.DC.NoVA), Silver Spring, Maryland

Rev. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM, Parochial Vicar, St. Camillus Catholic Church, Silver Spring, Maryland

Tom Robertson, Executive Director, Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland

Jodi Rose, Executive Director, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Annapolis, Maryland

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Chair, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life and Rabbi, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda, Maryland

The Reverend Dr. Angela Shepherd, Canon Pastor, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore, Maryland

Dr. Rajwant Singh, President, EcoSikh, Silver Spring, Maryland

Rev. Cynthia Snavely, Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bowie, Maryland

Rev. Timothy Stern, Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church, Odenton, Maryland

Judith Tanner, Woodbrook Baptist Church, Towson, Maryland

Albert Todd, Environmental Missions Chair, St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Annapolis, Maryland

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Director, The Shalom Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Rita Ellen White, Priest in Charge, Cople Episcopal Parish, Hague, Virginia

Rev. Jim Wolford, Augustine Episcopal Parish, North East, Maryland

Signatories Representing Themselves as Individual People of Faith:

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr., Lay Eucharistic Minister, Christian Stewardship, Warsaw, Virginia

Richard Albright, First Baptist Church of Glen Arden, Grasonville, Maryland

Craig Anderson, Church of the Holy Comforter, Richmond, Virginia

Mary Babbitt, Parishioner, St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Church, Greenbelt, Maryland

Rabbi Donald Berlin, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Oheb Shalom, Baltimore, MD; National President, Nat'l Assoc. Of Retired Reform Rabbis; Member, Temple B'nai Israel, Easton, Maryland; St. Michaels, Maryland

Matthew Beyers, Co-Chair, Green Sanctuary Team, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, Rockville, Maryland

William Blair, Babcock Presbyterian Church, Towson, Maryland

Donna Bozza, Cape Charles Baptist Church, Cape Charles, Virginia

Katherine Brantner, Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA, York, Pennsylvania

Rev. Ladelle Brooks, Pastor, Christian Community of Frederick, MD, United Methodist Church,
Frederick, Maryland

Drew Brown, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Martha Burford, Director of Church Music, Church of the Holy Comforter, Richmond, Virginia

Judith Burns, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at Salisbury, Salisbury, Maryland

Marlene Butler, Christ Our King Presbyterian Church, Bel Air, Maryland

Amy Clements, Spa Creek Conservancy, Annapolis, Maryland

Reverend Greg Cochran, Woodbrook Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland

John Combs, Chair, Care for Creation Committee, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Derwood,
Maryland; Rockville, Maryland

Nancy Conrad, Chairperson, Community Advocacy Committee, St. Anthony/Most Precious Blood/St.
Dominic Churches, Baltimore, Maryland

Heather Cudjoe, Silent Unity, Richmond, Virginia

William Curtis, Elder, Faith Presbyterian Church, Towson, Maryland

Michael C. Davie, Ark & Dove Presbyterian Church, Odenton, Maryland

Tal Day, Chair, Committee on Stewardship of Creation, The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, Alexandria,
Virginia

David Dunnell, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Kensington, Maryland

Stuart Elsberg, Founding Board Member, Chestertown Havurah, Chestertown, Maryland

Kim Ethridge, St. John the Evangelist, Arnold, Maryland

Terri Forand, Woodbrook Baptist Church, Towson, Maryland

Marian Ford, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Onancock, Virginia

Kara Gallegos, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Baltimore, Maryland

Ann Gearhart, Episcopal, Lutherville, Maryland

██████████, Pearlstone Center, Reisterstown, Maryland [*requested their name not be shared on this
public webpage*]

Eleanor Gordon, Episcopal Church, Eastville, Virginia

Barbara Harrison, Recorder, Chester River Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends,
Chestertown, Maryland

Carel Hedlund, Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, Towson, Maryland

Ralph Hodge, Pastor, Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia

Leonard Johnson, Salem Lutheran, Catonsville, Maryland

Alice Johnson, Trinity Episcopal Church, Timonium, Maryland

Ann Jurczyk, Earthcare Committee member, Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg, Virginia

George Kaplan, St. Mary Anne's Episcopal Church, North East, Maryland; Colora, Maryland

Mark Kellogg, Stewardship of Creation Committee, St. Martins-in-the-Field Episcopal Church, Severna Park, Maryland

Barbara Kestenbaum, Congregation Kol Shalom, Edgewater, Maryland

Sandra Kirkland, Lay Leader, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Annapolis, Maryland

Ahmet Kus, Outreach Member, American Turkish Friendship Association (ATFA), Germantown, Maryland

██████████, Stillwater Mindfulness Practice Center, Takoma Park, Maryland [*requested their name not be shared on this public webpage*]

Betsy Love, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Annapolis, Maryland

Careen Mayer, Annapolis Friends Meeting, Annapolis, Maryland

Rachel McNamara, Gallery Church Patterson Park, Baltimore, Maryland

Barbara Metz, St. Matthew Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Patricia Miller, Co-Facilitator Earth Community, St. Raphael Church, Rockville, Maryland; Potomac, Maryland

Lily J. Mollencott, St. Andrews, Newtown, Pennsylvania

Alyssa Muhlendorf, Chair, Environmental Stewardship Subcommittee, Ohef Sholom Temple, Norfolk, Virginia

J. Newman, UUCL, Christ the Redeemer, Sterling, Virginia

Jack Normand, Individual of faith, Wachapreague, Virginia

Sharon Nusbaum, Member, Board of Directors, Ohef Sholom Temple, Norfolk, Virginia

Rev. Beth O'Malley, McHenry Dean of the Chapel, United Church of Christ, Hood College, Frederick, Maryland

Gwen Paduch, Christ Our King Presbyterian Church, Bel Air, Maryland

Julie Parker, Cape Charles Baptist Church, Cape Charles, Virginia

Rebecca Piatt, First Unitarian Church of Lynchburg, UU, Lynchburg, Virginia

Natalie Pien, Unitarian Universalist, Loudon, Virginia

Diane Pierce, Cape Charles Baptist Church, Cape Charles, Virginia

Julia Poust, Christ Our King Presbyterian Church, Bel Air, Maryland

Rabbi Avram Reisner, Baltimore, Maryland

Carol Rice, St. Matthew, Baltimore, Maryland

Tom Robertson, Executive Director, Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland

Greg Rockwell, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.

Sharon Ross, Co-Chair of Caring Committee, Ohel Sholom Temple, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Martha Ruffin, The Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore, Maryland

The Reverend Dr. Meriwether A. Sale, Shenandoah Presbytery, Harrisonburg, Virginia

Ken Sandin, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, Rockville, Maryland

Nancy Schipske, Methodist, New Holland, Pennsylvania

██████████, Woodbrook Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland *[requested their name not be shared on this public webpage]*

Steve Schreiner, Elder, Immanuel United Church of Christ, Relay, Maryland

Wendy Rambo Shuford, Vestry member, Memorial Episcopal Church, Baltimore, Maryland

██████████, Temple Beth Shalom, Baltimore, Maryland *[requested their name not be shared on this public webpage]*

Betsy Singer, Temple Isaiah Congregation, Fullton, Maryland

The Reverend Dr. Hilary Smith, Priest, Holy Comforter, Richmond, Virginia

Allan Straughan, Congregant and Executive Director of Koolhof Earth, Jenkins Memorial Church, Pasadena, Maryland

Susan Tarr, Elder, Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Church of the Covenant, Arlington, Virginia

S. Van Tiem, Woodbrook Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland

Elaine Wagenfuehr, Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland

The Reverend Dr. Kathryn Wajda, Epiphany Episcopal Church, Lutherville, Maryland

Patricia Webb, First Unitarian Church of Lynchburg/Unitarian Universalist, Madison Heights, Virginia

Jeri Willson, Emmanuel Monastery, Lutherville, Maryland

██████████, Ohel Sholom Temple, Norfolk, Virginia *[requested their name not be shared on this public webpage]*

Rev. Julie Wilson, Calvary/Centennial Cooperative Parish, Emmitsburg, Maryland