April 24, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
Chairman  Ranking Member
328A Russell Senate Office Building  328A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6000  Washington, DC 20510-6000

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow:

As the Senate Agriculture Committee considers the upcoming Farm Bill, we urge you to consider inclusion of the Chesapeake Bay Farm Bill Enhancements Act.

The bill makes a number of changes to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) through additional funding, enhancing critical conservation areas, and boosting technical assistance. These provisions are necessary to ensure that CCA partnerships are consistent with national, regional and state priorities and generate outcomes that address critical resource concerns, such as the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. They will also address issues experiences by stakeholders in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The bill has broad, bipartisan support from the Governors of Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and the Mayor of Washington D.C. Furthermore, over 70 different organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the Choose Clean Water Coalition support the bill. Identical legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives.

Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that our regional Bay economy continues to thrive and that all Americans we can enjoy this treasure for generations to come.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Chris Van Hollen  Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate  United States Senate

Thomas R. Carper  Christopher A. Coons
United States Senate  United States Senate
Mark R. Warner
United States Senate

Joe Manchin, III
United States Senate

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate

Tim Kaine
United States Senate

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senate