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To: The Citizens of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
From: The Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee
Re: Chesapeake Bay Agreement – A Commitment to Open and Public Participation
Date: August 15, 2014

Thousands of citizens have commented on two drafts of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement during the two public comment periods last fall and this spring. We have taken your comments seriously and incorporated many of them into the final Agreement. The Agreement is stronger because of you.

On June 16, the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) signed a new, historic Agreement. On behalf of the EC, we, the members of the Principals' Staff Committee, pledge to engage the citizens of all jurisdictions openly and publicly in implementing the goals and outcomes of the new Agreement.

Within 90 days of June 16 – or on or before September 16, – we will identify the management strategies that each Partner expects to participate in the development of for the first two years of the Agreement.

By June 16, 2015 – within one year of signing the new Agreement – we will develop and finalize these strategies in consultation with you, with your organizations and with public and nonprofit agencies.

We will provide a period for public review and input prior to final adoption of the strategies. And we will make both the strategies and reports on our progress available at public meetings and on our websites.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure, and we are committed to working openly and collaboratively with engaged citizens to protect and restore it. We look forward to working with you in developing the management strategies for the first two years of the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement.

For the Chesapeake Bay Commission

For the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

For the Commonwealth of Virginia

For the District of Columbia

For the State of Delaware

For the State of Maryland

For the State of New York

For the State of West Virginia

For the United States of America, on behalf
of the Federal Leadership Committee
for the Chesapeake Bay