



choose **clean** water

September 9, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

We are writing to urge you to include The Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act (S. 1816) as part of any package of regional water and/or land bills that U.S. Senate will consider during the remainder of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

This bipartisan bill, introduced by Senator Ben Cardin, was reported out of the Committee on Environment and Public Works on June 30 by a unanimous vote. This legislation offers critical tools and accountability to finally bring clean water to the Mid-Atlantic region and to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The first Federal commitment to clean up the Bay came in 1983 under President Ronald Reagan. There have since been commitments from every subsequent Administration, with the latest coming last May when President Barack Obama issued *Executive Order 13508-- Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration*, establishing a firm deadline for cutting pollution in the watershed. S. 1816 provides the additional support necessary to help states and localities fulfill the commitments made over the years from President Reagan to President Obama, and of many governors over those same years.

The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure. It is a valuable economic engine to the Mid-Atlantic region –worth an estimated \$3 trillion each year. But the Bay also provides historic, cultural and recreational values for the 17 million residents of the Bay watershed and for the many millions more who visit.

On behalf of our members who rely on clean, fishable, streams and rivers, and the 17 million residents of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, we urge you to ensure that S. 1816 is included in any land or water legislative package that will see a vote for final passage before the Senate adjourns this fall. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adkins Arboretum  
Audubon Maryland-DC  
Audubon Society of Northern Virginia  
Back River Restoration Committee  
Baltimore Jewish Environmental Network  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Chesapeake Covenant Community  
Chester River Association  
Citizens for a Ft. Monroe National Park  
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future  
(PennFuture)  
Civil War Preservation Trust  
ClearWater Conservancy  
Coastal Conservation Association-  
Maryland  
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania  
Corsica River Conservancy  
Delaware Nature Society  
Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth  
Earth Conservation Corps  
Environment America  
Environment Maryland  
Environment Virginia  
Environmental Advocates of New York  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Evergreen Conservation Finance  
Float Fishermen of Virginia  
Friends of Dyke Marsh  
Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains  
Friends of the Chemung River

Friends of the Gauley River  
Friends of the Nanticoke River  
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia  
Growth Action Network of Anne Arundel  
County  
Lynnhaven River NOW  
Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
National Park Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nature Abounds  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
Partnership for Smarter Growth  
PennEnvironment  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Piedmont Environmental Council  
Potomac Conservancy  
Powhatan Creek Watershed Association  
Public Policy Virginia  
Restore America's Estuaries  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Talbot Rivers Protection Association  
The Wildlife Society  
Trout Unlimited  
Virginia Conservation Network  
Virginia League of Conservation Voters  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
Wicomico Environmental Trust

Cc: The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Chair, Committee on Environment and Public Works  
The Honorable Ben Cardin  
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
The Honorable Jim Webb  
The Honorable Mark Warner  
The Honorable Tom Carper  
The Honorable Ted Kaufman  
The Honorable Arlen Specter  
The Honorable Bob Casey  
The Honorable Jay Rockefeller  
The Honorable Carte Goodwin  
The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand