

What Environmental leaders, stakeholders and citizens have to say about the Maryland General Assembly's proposed cuts to Governor Ehrlich's Environmental Budget...

"Maryland, as a signatory to the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement, is committed to achieving Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals by 2010. Maryland has taken concrete steps to realize these objectives by adopting new water quality standards and funding the upgrading of sewage treatment plants. The Tributary Strategies and Targeted Watershed Initiatives are additional, indispensable tools for accomplishing these goals. The strategies and initiatives were developed with the participation of many stakeholders and enjoy wide support. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay urges adequate funding for these vital programs so that Maryland will continue its leadership role in achieving Bay cleanup."

**David Bancroft, Executive Director
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

"We enthusiastically welcome the Governor's initiative to increase the funding for the Solar Energy Grant Program to \$2.5 million as this would begin to create a meaningful market for solar energy products in the state. This investment by the state will create cleaner air and water, reduce strain on energy supplies, and improve employment and economic growth - all items benefiting the citizens of Maryland."

**William B. Rever, III, Strategic Marketing Manager
BP Solar**

"With the Tributary Strategy providing a blueprint for Bay restoration, it is critical that we devote every available resource to its implementation. We cannot delay these efforts."

**Torrey C. Brown, Chairman
Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center Board of Trustees**

"Funding for tributary strategy implementation and targeted watershed programs, support on-the-ground projects that are improving Chesapeake Bay water quality and protecting vital habitat. The Chesapeake Bay Trust supports the need for adequate funding for tributary strategy and targeted watershed programs, in order to advance Bay Restoration goals and sustain and leverage important technical expertise and financial partnerships."

**Middett S. Parker, Jr., Chairman
Chesapeake Bay Trust Board of Trustees**

"Cutting the Urban Tree Canopy goal funds would take a step backwards in our commitment to Bay restoration. It would cut funding for Annapolis and other cities committed to Bay restoration through enhancement of tree canopy in urban areas. The Urban Tree Canopy grant funds are vital to helping us address our water quality, air quality, soil retention and community livability issues. We count on these funds to help us meet compliance for federal air quality standards."

**Ellen O. Moyer, Mayor
City of Annapolis**

"The beauty of the Targeted Watershed and Tributary Strategies Programs are that they bring state, federal and local governments together with citizens, conservation organizations and environmental groups to jointly solve water quality problems in our tributary basins. Under these programs, each state agency's budget is interdependent on the others; thus any cuts to these programs being considered by the Maryland General Assembly will clearly be to the detriment of what we and many other nongovernmental organizations are working to accomplish."

**Patrick F. Noonan, Chairman Emeritus
The Conservation Fund**

"The Bay is the heart of Maryland and needs our maximum commitment to restore it to full health."

**Sherman Baynard, Fisheries Chair
Coastal Conservation Association, Maryland**



"If funding for the Corsica Restoration is significantly reduced or eliminated, not only will the state be turning its back on a highly impaired and troubled watershed, it will be losing the opportunity to develop a template for restoring other watersheds throughout the Chesapeake. The state will be leaving money on the table in the form of volunteer resources, private funds and federal grants that would otherwise be committed to this effort. That would not be smart money management or represent due diligence in caring for the states assets."

**Frank DiGalleonardo, President
Corsica River Conservancy**

"Maryland is fortunate to have a robust mountain-biking community, whose national experts and local volunteers have been collaborating with DNR for over 10 years to produce some of Maryland's most praised, most environmentally sound, and most popular trails -- open to everybody not just bikes - at remarkably little cost to taxpayers. We urge the Maryland legislature to not cut the grant."

**David Scull, Maryland Representative
International Mountain Bicycling Association**

"We are excited and encouraged by the Governor's Chesapeake Bay initiatives and urge the legislature to not cut any of the proposed funding for these programs. We believe these initiatives are essential for Chesapeake Bay restoration."

**Jason Dubois, Chair
Lower Eastern Shore Tributary Team**

"There are really two elements to having a successful implementation of best management practices on the farm: One is adequate funding for the MACS [Maryland Agricultural Cost Share] program, but the other is having adequate technical support for the farmers to get the job done. If the budget is cut, there will not be sufficient staff in the Soil Conservation District offices to ensure success."

**Lee McDaniel, President
Maryland Assn of Soil Conservation Districts**

"With so much interest in providing additional dollars for the Cover Crop and MACS programs, unless we have people in the field working one-on-one with farmers to help install the best management practices, none of the funds can be used effectively."

**Lynne Hoot, Executive Director
Maryland Assn of Soil Conservation Districts**

"The most recent Tributary Strategies document indicates that to meet the agriculture goal for nitrogen reduction to the Chesapeake Bay we need farmers to plant 600,000 acres of cover crops annually. For every acre planted to cover crops researchers have clearly demonstrated we can keep approximately 10 pounds of nitrogen from entering the Bay. The money in the Governors' budget along with the money from the septic fees is essential to the success of the cover crop program. Cuts in the budget will not only delay our goal to restore the Bay, but equally important it will erode our farmers' confidence in society's commitment to working with agriculture to keep the industry economically viable and environmentally sound."

**Dr. Russell Brinsfield, Executive Director
Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc.**

"The local solar energy industry supports Governor Ehrlich's solar initiatives and urges full funding of the additional \$2.5 million for the Solar Energy Grant Program. The Solar Energy Grant Program funding is an embodiment of the State's commitment to a public/private partnership with the goal of developing the local solar energy industry and diversifying our energy mix with clean and stable energy sources. The grant program needs sufficient resources to overcome the inertia of rebuilding a local industry in both rural and urban parts of the Maryland helping to create installation jobs and manufacturing opportunities."

**Peter Lowenthal, Director
Maryland, DC, Virginia
Solar Energy Industries Association**

"The Rural Legacy Program is a critical funding source for the protection of Maryland's most important natural areas, farms and forests, especially in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Given the development pressures on rural lands in the state and rising land prices, the additional bond funding is especially important for helping to balance growth with land conservation."

**Nathaniel Williams, Maryland Director
The Nature Conservancy**

"The State Tributary Teams consider the Corsica Restoration vital toward learning the utility of BMPs [best management practices] for reducing pollutant loadings and for developing monitoring techniques that will be usable throughout the Bay. The Corsica Basin offers many differing sources of pollutant loadings that will require different kinds of BMPs; yet the system is small enough to allow for fairly accurate monitoring without the headaches associated with larger systems. Although the project is in the territory of the Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team, the results will be usable by all 10 Teams, statewide."

**Tom Filip, Chair
Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team**

"From an agricultural standpoint, and someone interested in seeing the Bay restored, the Tributary Teams and the implementation of the Tributary Strategy are vital to both the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and the survival of agriculture and agricultural businesses. The Teams work hand-in hand with many agricultural and community groups as well as State agencies toward the common goal of a restored Chesapeake Bay. The proposed funding is essential to meeting the needs of maintaining a viable agricultural economy and improving the health of the Bay."

**Skip Pieper, Chair
Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team**

"Urban Tree Canopy research is cutting edge and it is important for the State of Maryland to take the lead in providing financial and other resources to support local governments and community volunteers in their efforts to increase tree cover."

**Jacqueline M. Carrera, Executive Director
Parks and People**



