



**Pass S.1816 and H.R. 3852, the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act**  
sponsors Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Elijah Cummings

We have seen enormous public and private efforts over the past twenty years and we still do not have the results that people want and deserve: clean water, fishable rivers and streams, and the economic and environmental benefits that they bring. The choice before us now is not between “voluntary” or “mandated” approaches – it is between continuing a failed approach that allows our rivers to be degraded, and taking the necessary actions to control pollution of water that millions of people depend on. Do we continue to allow polluters to pollute? Do all Americans have a right to clean water or is it just a luxury?

The legislation, the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act, could provide the last real opportunity to restore the Bay in our lifetime. This legislation makes clear that no one has a “right” to pollute the water in the Chesapeake Bay region, and it provides the only chance we have to make the progress needed to clean the Bay.

The bill provides for a true integrated partnership of federal, state and local governments that must work together to achieve everyone’s goal of clean water. The legislation rewards innovation through market-based approaches to clean water, which lowers the cost of cleaning up local waters throughout the region.

The Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act calls for enforceable plans that will contain pollution limits so we can finally restore clean water to the hundreds of rivers and streams that flow into the Chesapeake Bay.

Science-Based Limits Using science-based limits, the Chesapeake Clean Water legislation is equitable in how it targets and reduces pollutants from various sources.

Watershed Implementation Plans The legislation includes a requirement for the states to develop and implement real Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) -- based on the model of the Clean Air Act’s State Implementation Plan concept. The Clean Air Act has been a notable success, largely based on these Plans, and has led to improved air quality with considerable benefits to human health and the environment throughout the U.S.

Funding The Chesapeake Clean Water bill designates \$1.51 billion to assist local governments in reducing storm water pollution, ensuring that the federal government supports localities in doing their part to clean up local waters and protect those downstream. Thousands of farmers have already adopted best practices and have improved their economic bottom line while also protecting the resource on which they, and others, depend. The bills specifically designate that at least 20% of all state implementation grants be used for technical assistance for farms and forestry – a total of \$96 million over the next six years.

Accountability and Consequences For the first time there will be real consequences for inaction and states and others will be held accountable. The states will be held accountable by EPA to ensure that their Watershed Implementation Plans are properly implemented and real progress is being made.

For more check out our website at [www.choosecleanwater.org](http://www.choosecleanwater.org)



1000 Friends of Maryland  
10000 Friends of Pennsylvania  
Adkins Arboretum  
Alliance for Aquatic Resource  
Monitoring (ALLARM)  
American Rivers  
Anacostia Riverkeeper  
Anacostia Watershed Restoration  
Partnership  
Anacostia Watershed Society  
Audubon MD/DC  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Audubon Society of Northern Virginia  
Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper  
Baltimore Jewish Environmental  
Network  
Bay Hundred Foundation  
Bohemian River Association  
Chapman Forest Foundation  
Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network  
Chesapeake Conservation  
Landscaping Council  
Chesapeake Stormwater Network  
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage  
Chester River Association  
Choptank River Eastern Bay  
Conservancy  
Citizens for a Fort Monroe National  
Park  
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future  
(PennFuture)  
Civil War Preservation Trust  
Clean Water Action  
ClearWater Conservancy  
Coalition for Smarter Growth  
Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania  
Corsica River Conservancy  
Delaware Nature Society  
Dorchester Citizens for Planned  
Growth  
Ducks Unlimited  
Eastern Shore Land Conservancy  
Elizabeth River Project  
Environment America  
Environment Maryland  
Environment Virginia  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Environmental Working Group  
Evergreen Conservation Finance  
Float Fishermen of Virginia  
Friends of Dyke Marsh  
Friends of Lower Beaverdam Creek

Friends of Powhatan Creek  
Watershed  
Friends of Shenandoah Mountain  
Friends of the Blue Ridge Mountains  
Friends of the Chemung River  
Watershed  
Friends of the Nanticoke  
Friends of the North Fork of the  
Shenandoah River  
Friends of the Rappahannock  
Friends of the Rivers of Virginia  
Growth Action Network of Anne  
Arundel County  
Harriet Tubman Underground  
Railroad Byway  
Herring Run Watershed Association  
Izaak Walton League of America  
James River Association  
Jones Falls Watershed Association  
Lancaster Farmland Trust  
Lower Shore Land Trust  
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper  
Lower Susquehanna Heritage  
Greenway  
Lynnhaven River NOW  
Maryland Bass Federation Nation  
Maryland League of Conservation  
Voters  
Mattawoman Watershed Society  
Nanticoke Watershed Preservation  
Group  
National Aquarium  
National Parks Conservation  
Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Nature Abounds  
New York League of Conservation  
Voters  
Partners for Open Space  
Partnership for Smarter Growth  
Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens  
Group  
PennEnvironment  
Penns Valley Conservation Association  
Pennsylvania Council of Churches  
Pennsylvania Farmers Union  
Pennsylvania Interfaith Climate  
Change Campaign  
Pennsylvania Organization for  
Watersheds and Rivers  
Phillips Wharf Environmental Center  
Piedmont Environmental Council  
Potomac Conservancy

Potomac Riverkeeper  
Presbyterian Citizens in Action  
Public Policy Virginia  
Queen Annes Conservation  
Association  
Restore America's Estuaries  
Sassafras River Association  
Savage River Watershed Association  
Severn Riverkeeper  
Shenandoah Riverkeeper  
Shenandoah Valley Network  
Sierra Club- Maryland Chapter  
Sierra Club- Pennsylvania Chapter  
Spring Creek Watershed Commission  
South River Federation  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
St. Mary's River Watershed  
Association  
Talbot Rivers Protection Association  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation  
Partnership  
Trout Unlimited  
Upper Susquehanna Coalition  
Virginia Conservation Network  
Virginia League of Conservation  
Voters  
Virginia State Waterman's Association  
Virginia Wilderness Committee  
West/Rhode Riverkeeper  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition  
Western Clinton Sportsmens  
Association  
Wetlands Watch  
Wicomico Environmental Trust  
Wild Virginia