

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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## **Congressional Bill Will Save the Bay**

Editor, Times-Dispatch: My wife and I own and manage a farm just a half-mile from the Potomac River in Lovettsville, where we raise wool sheep and wine grapes. We believe that both farmers and developers have an obligation to protect the health of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, because restoration of the Bay will enhance the economic and heritage value of this entire region.

Congress is considering one of the most important opportunities we have to restore the Chesapeake Bay: the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act. One of the outstanding features of this legislation is that it will address the issue of stormwater pollution from new development. As a farmer I applaud this provision. Developers must contribute fairly to the Bay's restoration. The development here in Loudoun County that has caused our population to multiply 14-fold since 1960 has destroyed thousands of acres of our best agricultural soils, denuded forests, and paved roads resulting in stormwater runoff and floods unknown in our history.

We all know that the Chesapeake Bay is in poor health. Unless we act resolutely and quickly, our grandchildren will only know to regret the economic and cultural values that we squandered and lost.

Malcolm F. Baldwin.  
Lovettsville.