

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 20, 2024

The Honorable Michael Regan, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to lead federal agency efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed. With many of the time-bound goals and outcomes of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Agreement (Bay Agreement) set to expire in 2025, Bay Agreement signatories must chart a path for the future of Chesapeake Bay watershed cleanup efforts. As the federal member of the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) and a key partner in Chesapeake Bay Program efforts, we write to inquire about your plans to continue the EPA's history of strong leadership on Bay efforts during this critical time leading up to the next phase of the Bay Agreement.

In May, during the fiscal year 2025 budget hearings, you committed to reinstating the EPA-led Federal Leadership Committee (FLC) in the fall of 2024. The FLC was originally established in 2009 by President Obama through Executive Order 13508 and included representation from all federal agencies that are part of the clean-up effort: EPA, as well as the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Interior and Transportation. By convening senior representatives from across the federal government with decision-making power and immense expertise, the FLC served as a platform for establishing federal commitments as the next phase of the Bay Agreement was drafted. This high-level perspective from the FLC was critical in setting the federal government's commitments for implementing the 2014 Bay Agreement.

We are once again at a pivotal moment for Bay clean-up efforts, with the Chesapeake Executive Council planning to meet on December 10th, 2024 in Annapolis, MD to discuss the future of the Bay Agreement. We are grateful to you for your commitment to reinstate the FLC, and for your continued leadership as a member of the EC, providing support and direction for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Recognizing that time is of the essence with 2025 fast approaching, we respectfully request that you please provide us with a written response to the following questions:

- (1) When will the FLC be holding its first principal-level meeting and who will be invited to attend?
- (2) Will you personally attend the EC meeting on December 10, 2024 in Annapolis?

EPA is a key partner in Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, and as the representative of the federal government on the EC, we are always grateful for your leadership on Bay Agreement issues.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



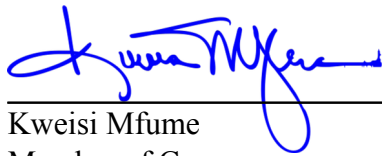
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress



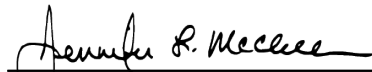
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



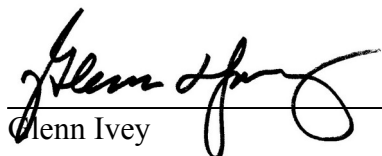
Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



David J. Trone
Member of Congress



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator