



HARRISBURG REGIONAL
CHAMBER & CREDC



June 25, 2008

The Honorable Mike Brubaker
301 East Main Street
Lititz, PA 17543

TO: Pennsylvania General Assembly; Administration; Federal Elected Officials
RE: Joint Chamber Concerns with the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy

Dear Senator Brubaker:

The Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC, The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry and York County Chamber, representing a combined 6,400 businesses and 303,000 employees in South Central Pennsylvania, write with our concerns with the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy. While we fully support improving the quality of the Chesapeake Bay, our members are particularly concerned about two items: 1) the disproportionate expense to be borne by municipal wastewater treatment plants, and 2) the administration of the Nutrient Trading Program.

As a voice for the business community, we are very concerned with the unfunded mandates for all sewage/water treatment facilities within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Meeting an unfunded mandate of \$1 billion or more will pose a significant financial burden on sewage/water treatment facilities and therefore, municipalities, businesses and residents. **Therefore, we encourage the state to provide funding to assist treatment facilities with their upgrades in the 2008-2009 budget.**

Last year, DEP established a Nutrient Trading Program that offers farms, communities and industries a tool to help them meet or exceed state and federal water quality goals. We fully recognize the contributions and progress being made by the agricultural community in cleaning up the Bay, and further recognize the agriculture community has taken on huge financial burdens to do so. However, we have three main concerns about the program's administration and feasibility: 1) Current credit availability is uncertain now and in the future, 2) the program is only geared towards farms already in compliance with the regulations, and 3) the market based approach created by DEP to administer credits complicates the program. We believe it is extremely important that this program works and works well. **Therefore, we encourage DEP to engage in a dialogue with the stakeholders to ensure the trading program works efficiently and to everyone's benefit.**

The Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC, The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry and York County Chamber believe that these two issues, funding sewage/water treatment facilities and improving the nutrient trading program, need your immediate attention. We look forward to working with you to ensure we improve the quality of the Bay in a responsible and timely manner.

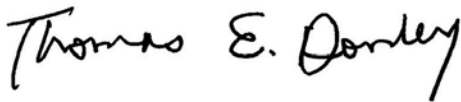
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Baldrige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Thomas T. Baldrige
President
The Lancaster Chamber

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David E. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

David E. Black
President & CEO
The Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas E. Donley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Thomas E. Donley, CCE
President
York County Chamber of Commerce