

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE

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703-324-1460 www.potomacroundtable.org

ROUNDTABLE OFFICERS

*Penelope Gross, Chair
Fairfax County
Board of Supervisors*

*Martin Nohe, 1st Vice Chair
Prince William County
Board of Supervisors*

*Harry Atherton, 2nd Vice Chair
Fauquier County
Board of Supervisors*

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

Local Governments

*Arlington County
Fairfax County
Fauquier County
King George County
Loudoun County
Northumberland County
Prince William County
Stafford County
Westmoreland County
City of Alexandria
City of Fairfax
City of Falls Church
City of Manassas
City of Manassas Park
Town of Colonial Beach*

Soil & Water

*Conservation Districts
John Marshall
Loudoun
Northern Neck
Northern Virginia
Prince William
Tri-County/City*

Planning District Commissions

Water/Wastewater Utilities

*Two members each from the
following stakeholder groups:*

*Environmental
Fishing & Boating
Agriculture
Development
Citizens of the Watershed*

January 11, 2007

The Honorable _____
House of Delegates or Senate of Virginia
address
address

Dear: Delegate or Senator _____:

This is a follow-up to our letter of December 20 which provided you with two legislative issues for the coming session – support for tree preservation and funding for a new stormwater extension faculty position at Virginia Tech.

Two bills regarding tree conservation have been introduced – HB2486 (Bulova) and SB939 (Ticer), which we request that you support. Funding for the faculty position at Virginia Tech was not included in the Governor's budget, but will be introduced as a Critical Staffing Initiative amendment to the budget. We would very much like to have new CSI funding earmarked for this specific position. It's focus would include research, teaching, and outreach. This would be similar to a stormwater management faculty position at North Carolina State University.

The Roundtable also supports substantial additional funding this session for point source treatment upgrades funded by Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) grants. Statewide, more than 125 facilities are affected by new EPA-mandated regulations. Recent Administration reports place the necessary treatment plant upgrade costs at approximately \$2 billion. Of this amount, approximately \$1 billion would be the state WQIF share.

The pending WQIF grant applications, requesting approximately \$630 million, already exceed the available WQIF balance for this program (approximately \$280 million) by \$350 million. To begin addressing this significant shortfall and help meet the larger 2010 need, we ask that you support the bond initiative under HB1710 (Callahan) and SB771 (Chichester). This \$250 million bond authorization would be a significant step toward upgrading 89 publicly owned sewage treatment facilities, though additional funding will still be needed to meet the entire regulatory obligation.

We appreciate your devotion and hard work on behalf of your constituents in the Potomac Watershed Roundtable region and look forward to favorable action on these bills. Should you wish to discuss any of these issues, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Penelope A. Gross, PWR Chair
Member, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
703-256-7717