

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 905, Fairfax, VA 22035
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ROUNDTABLE OFFICERS

*Penelope Gross, Chair
Fairfax County
Board of Supervisors*

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

*Woody Hynson, 2nd Vice Chair
Westmoreland 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

General Assembly

*Two members each from the
following stakeholder groups:*

*Agriculture and Forestry
Development, Construction
and Real Estate
Environmental
Fishing and Boating
Waste Management and
Recycling
Water & Wastewater Utilities
Citizens of the Watershed*

January 10, 2012

Honorable {Name}
{Title}
{Address}

Dear Delegate/Senator {Name}:

The Potomac Watershed Roundtable is a regional government-citizen forum, founded in 2000, to promote collaboration and cooperation on environmental issues, especially water quality, among the various local governments and stakeholder interest groups within the Virginia side of the middle and lower Potomac watershed. Included in our membership are nine counties, six towns and cities, six soil and water conservation districts, and nine stakeholder groups.

The Roundtable appreciates the work of the General Assembly to address environmental issues. This year, rather than formulating a specific legislative program for presentation to the General Assembly, we want to highlight an issue that has a significant impact on water supply and water quality for more than 2 million Virginia residents. The Commonwealth's proposed withdrawal from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) Compact, to which the Commonwealth has been a signatory since ICPRB was established by Congress in 1940, will have a devastating effect on drinking water supply planning in Northern Virginia. As you know, the Potomac River is the primary source for drinking water for your constituents. The ICPRB is critical to the implementation of the multi-state Potomac River Water Supply Coordination Agreement, and plays a major role in coordination and management of water withdrawals from the major interstate rivers, which also includes the Shenandoah River. ICPRB also conducts much of the scientific research necessary to support the Regional Water Supply Plan mandated by the Commonwealth.

Virginia's share of support for ICPRB is approximately \$151,000 annually, an amount that was stripped out of the current budget, and was not included in the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2013. The omission of support for ICPRB by the Commonwealth of Virginia would have long-lasting negative effects on drinking water supplies in Northern Virginia at a time when growth and job creation are major assets for the region and the Commonwealth. Its unique interstate function cannot be replicated by any other agency, so Virginia's withdrawal from ICPRB is simply not an option. The Potomac Watershed Roundtable urges you to reinstate, immediately, full support for ICPRB in the spirit that has prevailed for the past 70 years.

The challenges facing the Commonwealth and its citizens are significant, and the members of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable look forward to working with you and other members of the General Assembly to advance water quality and environmental improvements for the benefit of all Virginians.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Penelope A. Gross
Chairman, Potomac Watershed Roundtable
Member, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors