

POTOMAC WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE

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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 15, 2016

Honorable
{ 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, the Potomac Watershed Roundtable urges you to amend the Governor's proposed budget to replenish the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) and support urban and regulated stormwater projects in localities across the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

As you may know, the Virginia General Assembly created and set forth specific parameters for the administration of the Fund in 2013 to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. The purpose of SLAF was to provide matching grants to local governments for the planning, design, and implementation of stormwater best management practices that address cost efficiency and commitments related to reducing water quality pollutant loads. Through two solicitations for applications, the Department of Environmental Quality awarded approximately \$45 million to localities for the implementation of cost-effective stormwater BMP and stream restoration projects. However, there is more work to do and more assistance is needed.

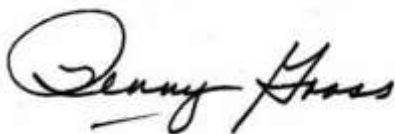
From recent Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) progress reports by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, it is clear that progress toward meeting reductions in nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment in the urban and regulated stormwater sectors lag in comparison to that of the agriculture and wastewater. Much of this is due to inadequate financial investment by the state in those areas. The budget amendment to include funding for SLAF projects will show the Commonwealth's commitment to reinvesting in its urban areas.

Finally, the Roundtable membership would like to commend our legislators with re-establishing Virginia's annual support for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) in 2012. There are many benefits to Virginia's residents. However, none are more apparent than ICPRB's response to the latex spill from Luke Mill in West Virginia this past September. Our region's drinking water authorities relied on ICPRB to monitor the spill and its dilution, and communicate the location of the spill as it traveled downriver.

As a result, our region's water authorities were able to make informed decisions and take appropriate actions to safeguard their Potomac River intakes and their customers – your constituents.

The challenges facing the Commonwealth and its citizens are significant, and the members of the Potomac Watershed Roundtable appreciate your devotion and hard work. We 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Penelope A. Gross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

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