

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Jane Nishida, Esq.
Acting Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear President Biden and Acting Administrator Nishida,

We appreciate your Administration's plans to protect and restore our nation's waters. As our nation's largest estuary, the health of the Chesapeake Bay is critical for our region. We urge you to appoint a Senior Advisor to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator for the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River to continue working to improve the health of the Bay.

The Chesapeake Bay generates \$33 billion in economic value annually, is home to spectacular ecological diversity, and hosts two of the United States' five major ports. The Bay's health directly impacts our constituents' livelihoods and the culture of our districts. The EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program has been invaluable in ensuring the Bay will be healthy for generations to come.

The Obama Administration appointed three Senior Advisors to the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator for the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River. They helped implement Executive Order 13508 on Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration, which required the EPA and departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Interior, and Transportation to collaborate on Bay restoration efforts. This laid the foundation for the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint, which established the Bay's total maximum daily load (TMDL), an agreement between seven jurisdictions within the watershed on levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment that can enter the Bay.

Despite this progress, EPA's reluctance to enforce states' TMDL obligations caused setbacks in improving the health of the Bay. This led to a lawsuit brought by Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Washington, D.C., and other entities against the EPA for failing to ensure Pennsylvania and New York fulfill their commitments to curb runoff into the Chesapeake Bay's tributaries. Additionally, the 2020 State of the Bay Report gave the Chesapeake Bay an overall score of 32 out of 70, a one-point decrease from 2018. Experts have attributed the continued degradation to the previous Administration's rollback of crucial environmental regulations. This trend must not continue, and

we believe a Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator on the Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River will pave the way to restoration.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your leadership and sharing our commitment to the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,



ELAINE G. LURIA
Member of Congress



ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT
Member of Congress



JOHN P. SARBANES
Member of Congress

/s/

STENY HOYER
Member of Congress

/s/

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress

/s/

C. A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
Member of Congress

/s/

GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress

/s/

DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress

/s/

ANTHONY BROWN
Member of Congress

/s/

A. DONALD McEACHIN
Member of Congress

/s/

JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress

/s/

DAVID TRONE
Member of Congress

/s/

KWEISI MFUME
Member of Congress