Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

# RESOLUTION

## To Enhance the Role and Voice of Agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure, and historically the most productive estuary in the world, and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a primary economic sector in the region containing 3.2 percent of the nation's farm acreage, yet producing 5.7 percent of the nation's agricultural receipts and contributing 13 percent of the region's Gross Domestic Product, and

WHEREAS, farmers in this watershed have been leaders in the voluntary restoration effort and a national model for cooperation, and

WHEREAS, farm economic viability is of paramount importance in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and increased funding is needed to support both technical and financial resources to address nutrient reduction goals, as well as to encourage additional conservation and innovation, and

WHEREAS, the next Farm Bill may provide unprecedented opportunity to provide support for many Chesapeake Bay agricultural programs, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous new technologies and markets being proposed for the agricultural sector that may have impacts on farm viability and nutrient and sediment loads, and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a highly valued way of life in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and it is a vital part of the history and heritage of the region, and

WHEREAS, a clear voice from the agriculture community is needed in order to help direct and propel the Chesapeake Bay Partnership in a direction that enhances clean up and provides for increased farm viability.

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NOW, THEREFORE, we urge the state Secretaries and Commissioners of Agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to meet on a periodic basis to discuss: (1) agricultural and farm viability issues in relation to Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration; (2) funding issues related to conservation practices within the region; (3) innovative technologies and markets that may enhance restoration and secure agricultural viability in the region; and (4) other matters that may advance the agricultural role and voice in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership;

FURTHER, that the Secretaries and Commissioners will report back to the Chesapeake Executive Council annually, or more frequently if necessary, on recommendations that will advance the role and voice of agriculture in the Chesapeake Bay partnership.



AR0005375

*Given under our hand this* 22nd *day of September 2006*

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Edward G. Rendell

FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Ruth Ann Minner

FOR THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA