



## RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 20-20

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.  
Executive Director  
DATE: February 27, 2020

### RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT CONTINUED FULL FUNDING OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Virginia is a signatory to both the 1983 and 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement; and

WHEREAS partners in the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage and a diversity of engaged citizens and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program is a unique regional partnership that has led and directed the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since 1983 under direction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, close to two-thirds of the EPA funding appropriated for the Chesapeake Bay Program is provided directly to state and local partners for watershed restoration, protection and monitoring; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Federal budget cuts the program by 91% from \$85 million to \$7.3 million; and

WHEREAS, Northern Virginia region is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; and

WHEREAS, a 2014 study by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation estimated that the economic benefits of a restored Chesapeake Bay to Virginia's economy could reach \$49.5 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Northern Virginia jurisdictions and others in the region, have invested billions of dollars, created programs, and implemented policies to protect and restore local waters within the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership is past the mid-point of a fifteen year-long plan to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loadings to the Bay, known as the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL); and

WHEREAS, the scientific, technical and financial support from EPA and other federal agencies are important contributors to the success of the TMDL and the benefits that will accrue from improved water quality; and

WHEREAS, long-term pollution trends from the Bay's major rivers generally appear to be decreasing; and

WHEREAS, reductions in critical funding for the CBP or other federal partners would risk slowing or reversing the progress that has been made by Northern Virginia jurisdictions and others to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay Watershed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission supports continued full funding of the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Executive Director is authorized to share said resolution with the Northern Virginia Congressional delegation and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

#### CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on February 27, 2020.

  
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ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER

