



## **CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION**

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### ***Saving a National Treasure***

#### **PLEASE OPPOSE HB 1241, WHICH WOULD**

- Bar localities from prohibiting noncommercial car wash fundraisers using acceptable (phosphate-free, biodegradable) cleaners; and
- Bar the State Water Control Board from prohibiting the discharge to local streams of wastewater from such car washes.

#### **HB1241 IS UNNECESSARY, AS VIRGINIA'S EXISTING CAR WASH RULES ARE EFFECTIVE AND NON-BURDENSOME**

Car wash operations create wastewater that may contribute pollutants (oil, grease, sediment, toxins, phosphorus, etc.) to local waterways. Use of phosphate-free, biodegradable cleaners will eliminate some pollutants, but others (e.g., toxins) may remain. To protect waterways, Virginia follows a rational, graduated system that has been working well:

- Residential car washes are not regulated at all.
- Commercial car wash operations are regulated by permit.
- Noncommercial, fundraising-type car washes are not generally regulated by the State Water Control Board (Board) or the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
- Instead, DEQ recommends (but does not require) use of certain practices to minimize the risk to waterways from such wastewater. Localities managing stormwater runoff may (but are not required to) use or recommend these practices.

#### **HB1241 COULD DISRUPT WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAMS**

The pollution risk of individual car wash operations varies depending on location and specific practices. Localities and the Board should retain their ability to evaluate the risk and prescribe solutions.

- Localities devise solutions to car wash wastewater risks that will work in their communities. For example, some localities may “prohibit” such car washes unless done pursuant to a non-burdensome local process designed to educate car wash sponsors on best practices. HB1241 would interfere with that process.
- The Board has, and should retain, responsibility and authority under the Clean Water Act to prohibit the discharge of pollutants to protect water quality. HB1241 would interfere with that authority.

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