EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

VCN POINT OF CONTACT

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RESTORING VIRGINIA’S WATERS

GIVING FARMERS THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO PROTECT OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS

Historically, Virginia’s funding for agricultural best management practices (BMPs) and associated technical assistance has fluctuated significantly from year to year but has always fallen far below the state’s documented need. But, the 2019 General Assembly turned a page, providing almost $90 million for conservation practices and assistance. Strong, sustained funding at the level identified in the biennial Agricultural Needs Assessment will improve water quality and ensure the continued vitality of agricultural economies in communities across the Commonwealth, both in and beyond the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

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TACKLING POLLUTED STORMWATER RUNOFF AND RESTORING LOCAL WATER QUALITY

Cities and towns, churches and schools, homeowners and developers - everyone has a role to play in keeping nutrient and sediment pollution out of our stormwater. The state can and should encourage pollution reduction practices by providing strong funding support and protecting our existing stormwater management regulations.

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UPGRADING WASTEWATER TREATMENT IN VIRGINIA

In the last decade and a half, Virginia legislators have enacted a suite of programs, including a watershed general permit, and a nutrient trading program, along with consistent funding through the Water Quality Improvement Fund, to help the wastewater sector reduce pollution to waterways. As positive results and new challenges begin to appear, Virginia must remain committed to this work by ensuring robust and sustained funding for continued modernization of its wastewater fleet.

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RECEDING LITTER POLLUTION IN VIRGINIA’S WATERWAYS

The state legislature must take a leadership role on litter and carefully consider plastic’s significant prevalence in our local waterways. Virginia should encourage businesses as well as citizens to reduce waste generation. China’s ban on US trash and recyclables is a clear indication that there should be an expanded emphasis on waste prevention.

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PROTECTING VIRGINIA’S WATERS FROM RISKY AND UNNECESSARY PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

The Virginia General Assembly should work to protect landowners, ratepayers and the environment from risky and unnecessary natural gas pipeline development. It is critical for state agencies to conduct thorough, transparent and independent analyses that investigate the need for the pipelines and impacts on Virginia’s water resources, natural landscapes and communities.

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UNDERSTANDING THE ALBEMARLE WATERSHED AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

A significant part of Virginia lies in the Albemarle-Pamlico watershed and we have a responsibility to restore and protect the natural resources as well as the quality of life of the residents in this watershed. We also have an obligation to work together with our partners in North Carolina to plan effectively for the future of this beautiful and bountiful estuary.

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