WORKING WITH FARMERS TO PROTECT OUR RIVERS AND STREAMS

Historically, Virginia’s funding for agricultural BMPs and associated technical assistance has fluctuated significantly from year to year but has always fallen far below the state’s documented need. Strong, sustained funding at the level identified in the Agricultural Needs Assessment will improve water quality and invest in agricultural economies in hard-hit 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, specifically the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.

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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 cost-effectively reduce pollution to Virginia’s 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 the Commonwealth’s wastewater facilities.

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CONSERVING AND EXPANDING TREE CANOPY FOR CLEANER AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Conserving existing tree canopy and investing in urban forests and riparian corridors restores our waterways, and can help restore Virginia’s economy and improve the physical and mental health of our residents, particularly those who live in underserved communities. We anticipate more legislation in 2021 and hope legislators will support these initiatives.

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