



Chesapeake Bay Program

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 1997 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting

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Welcome

Robert Fri, Director of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution

Good afternoon. My name is Bob Fri. I'm director of the National Museum of Natural History, which is where you are, and on behalf of the museum and the Smithsonian Institution I want to extend a particularly cordial welcome to the members of the Chesapeake Executive Council, and of course to all of you.

I'm particularly pleased to welcome you here for a couple of reasons. One is that I was with the Environmental Protection Agency in its early days as deputy administrator, and even then the Chesapeake was one of the premier bodies of water in this country about which we worried a great deal. And so I can appreciate how important it is to have this kind of consistent long-term attention paid to the problems of the Chesapeake; they're formidable problems, but without this kind of effort there is no way that they can be attacked successfully.

I'm pleased as well because the Smithsonian feels very much a part of the Chesapeake system. For the last 30 years we have had the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center on the western shore of the Chesapeake. It has been doing serious landscape ecology and experimental work there for all that time. We have some of the finest sets of empirical data and experimental information about what is really going on in certain parts of the system -- the entire watershed that you'll find anywhere. We use that, not only to do research, but to help educate some 10,000 children that come through the Environmental Research Center every year. We try to tell them that it really is important to have sound public policy affecting that body of water. So we feel a very much a part of what you were doing here, and of course stand ready to do whatever we can to help. Again, thank you very much, and let me wish you a successful rest of the day.

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Review of 1997 Nutrient Reevaluation & Private Meeting Actions

Executive Council Chair Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Thank you for that welcome, and I want to thank all of the people here at the museum for inviting us to your beautiful facilities today. I am Carol Browner, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and I am concluding my second year as chair of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council. It is the first office I have run for, and I won with the unanimous vote of my colleagues. I am pleased to be joined by the other members of the Executive Council, Governor Glendening, Governor Ridge, Governor Allen, Mayor Barry, and Chairman Murphy.

We had a real good meeting. You probably notice that we're late to this part of the session, but I hope you can take from our tardiness the fact that we were using the time to engage in some very important discussions; government to government, city to city, leaders to leaders, about how best we go about our task of protecting and preserving this most beautiful resource. We are joined here today as always by our many partners in this endeavor; leaders from business, the agriculture community, environmental organizations, as well as my colleagues from the Environmental Protection Agency, the governors' colleagues from their state agencies, and many from local government.

This council was created and is sustained today by a simple overarching philosophy; we're all in this together. No single industry, no single jurisdiction caused the decline of the Chesapeake Bay. No single industry, no single jurisdiction, no single level of government can bear full responsibility for returning the Bay to full health, restoring, protecting this national treasure, so that it may continue to enhance the quality of the life of the people here in this part of our country. Enhance the quality of life in this region for generations to come requires that each and every one of us do our part to work together to set goals for reducing pollution and improving the quality of the Bay's waters. Most importantly, we must continue to strive to meet these goals. No one said the task would be easy.

When this council was established 15 years ago the Chesapeake Bay had been under stress for literally decades. Everyone who came to the table then, everyone who was involved then knew that we were in it for the long haul, and that every sliver of progress would be hard to win. Accordingly, I think we have every single right to look back over the last 15 years, and to be pleased with the progress that we have made. The [rockfish](#), the [shad](#), other species are returning to the Bay. The [blue crabs](#) are at least stable, if not still somewhat vulnerable; they are at least stable. [Underwater grasses](#), vital to the Bay's health, are on the increase, water clarity seems to be getting better in many areas.

Perhaps just as importantly as these measurements, as these signs of progress, there is a growing sense among many of us who are part of the restoration process that we can ultimately prevail in this effort, in this struggle. However, the job is not done. We cannot simply rest on our laurels. We do still have a very, very long way to go. To paraphrase the quote that has been used before, and reappeared in one of the newspapers in the past several days -- "The patient is stabilized, but it is not yet out of intensive care."

To a certain extent the Chesapeake Bay is something of a microcosm of where America stands on this, the 25th anniversary of the [Clean Water Act](#). Vice President Gore and I celebrated that anniversary a week ago. Up to this point we have made great progress, addressing the most conspicuous pollution problems that we face in our rivers and lakes across the country; the raw sewage, the industrial waste that emanates from waste pipes. Looking ahead across the country we can see that we have yet to fully address what may very well be the most difficult part of the water quality problems in this country. You know, when people could see the pollution, when they could smell the pollutants; when they could literally see it being dumped into their local river, into their bay, into their neighborhood stream, in some ways it was a lot easier to take action, and in some ways I think that's why we were able to make the progress we've made in reducing pollution into our waters from the large stationary sources -- the factories, the sewage systems.

And the Chesapeake Bay is certainly no exception. That progress, that focus on [point sources](#) is properly continuing. But today the vast majority of harmful pollutants flowing into the Bay come from what we know as runoff or [nonpoint source pollution](#); from farms, streets, lawns, airborne pollution that settles into the Bay. We're talking about literally millions of sources spread out over the entire reach of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Now, this is still no cause -- there's still no room for finger pointing. There are no scapegoats. We are all responsible for making the difficult choices and the tough commitments that will help us get the Chesapeake Bay off of life support, out of intensive care, and back on the road to full recovery.

Recently the patient did let out latest plaintiff cry for help, and that is in the form of [Pfiesteria](#) outbreaks in the Bay's tributaries. These outbreaks, the widespread concerns that they have generated, have underscored several critical elements of our task. First, there is more about restoring a precious, natural, magnificent resource than simply committing ourselves to doing that; there is also the public's health to be protected. Second, we must do more to reduce the polluted runoff that is harming the Bay. Third, we must look at the Chesapeake Bay, not as just one great body of water, but rather it's many individual bodies

of water that converge. Many of the tributaries that lead into the Bay are still overloaded with nitrogen and phosphorus. If we are to restore water quality in the Bay we must literally work stream by stream, river by river, community by community.

Community-based watershed management tools such as total maximum daily loads must be a critical and essential part of our overall effort to clean up the Bay. We can't achieve all of this by redoubling our efforts to implement our comprehensive strategy for restoring the Bay's water quality. Building upon the joint approach represented by this council, we must work ever more diligently to bring everyone together, from industries, agriculture, community, environmental organizations -- all levels of government, to share our ideas, to pool our resources, and most importantly to ensure that we not only set tough goals, but that we actually meet them.

These are the elements that are at the very heart of the strategy that the Vice President announced on the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, for ensuring that across this country we are prepared to meet the water quality challenges of the next 25 years. On a national level it means for us at EPA developing criteria and setting more stringent water quality standards for phosphorus, for nitrogen. It means reversing the loss of wetlands and turning that into a net gain of 100,000 wetland acres every year. It means special efforts to help states work on a watershed by watershed basis to protect rivers that feed into larger bodies such as the Chesapeake Bay.

Here in the Chesapeake Bay watershed the focus has to be on what we are going to do to meet the very difficult challenges ahead. We must face the tough questions, and I am happy to report that at this morning's Executive Council meeting we took some very important steps in that direction. For example, we discussed what we're going to do to meet the longstanding goal of reducing what we all refer to as nutrient pollution -- nitrogen, phosphorus. We set a goal of a 40 percent reduction by the year 2000.

Now, the truth of the matter is, for [phosphorus](#) we're probably going to meet that goal, but we won't for [nitrogen](#). Today I am pleased to tell you that we have all agreed to sign a [directive](#) calling for nine new separate actions to bring us closer to reaching the 40 percent goal for both pollutants by the year 2000. These actions address polluted runoff, pollution from sewage treatment and industrial facilities, and the air pollution that deposits into the Bay.

The directive will attempt to answer a larger question as well: [Is 40 percent enough?](#) Will it help us deal with problems like Pfiesteria? Will it restore local watersheds and streams? Do we need to go further? If so, how much further? That is what we hope to determine under today's directive; that is what we commit ourselves to today.

We also discussed [wetlands](#). We all agree that wetlands are vital to the process of improving water quality in the Bay. Between now and the end of this meeting today the Chesapeake Bay watershed will have lost several more acres of wetlands. Our experts at EPA tell us we are losing 3,000 acres of precious wetland each and every year. We are fooling ourselves if we are to believe that we can restore the health of this Bay without first reversing this trend. I can report today that the Council agreed to develop [jurisdiction-specific strategies](#) for the

Council meeting next year for achieving a net gain of wetlands; strategies that will ensure that each acre of wetlands lost will be replaced by an acre of similar ecological value. But we want to do more than just reduce the number of wetlands that are lost each year. We cannot be satisfied by simply stabilizing the situation. We also committed ourselves to setting goals, to return in the year 2000 with a set of numeric goals. And as I leave as chair of this body, I would like to set forth a challenge that each and everyone of us do everything we can in our power to expedite the process toward a specific goal; to set targets, numbers, time frames that are bold; to commit ourselves to recognizing the critical importance that wetlands play in the long-term health of the Bay.

All of us have pledged to work very hard to enlist local governments, businesses, citizens organizations to work in their local areas, in their local watersheds, to return local streams to good health. And EPA will continue to work with the states to provide [technical assistance to these local efforts](#). We believe that working community by community, watershed by watershed, restoring habitats, working to control runoff and other forms of pollution, these local efforts can make a huge difference in the quality of water flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

So today in our final action, the Executive Council will sign a new measure; the [Community Watershed Initiative](#), designed to more closely connect these local watershed improvements efforts to the regional Chesapeake Bay Restoration program. And I want to thank Virginia State representative Tayloe Murphy and the Chesapeake Bay Commission for bringing this opportunity to the Executive Council's attention.

We know that restoring and protecting the Chesapeake Bay has to begin in our communities. This Executive Council can set high standards, we can set tough goals, and we should; that's part of our responsibility. We can continue to work together to monitor, to assess the Bay's water quality, and we will. We can work to ensure that the challenges of restoring and protecting the Bay are addressed in the most comprehensive way possible, and we must. But when all is said and done, our successes will hinge on people. Each and every one of us who live in this vast watershed, each and every one of us who raise our families here, people who run businesses, farm the land, fish the waters, people who build, maintain, and govern our communities, and just plain ordinary people who want to ensure that future generations have clean healthy water to drink, to swim in, to fish from, to enhance their quality of life. Working together as we have over the past 10 years, I know that this Executive Council can keep this effort on track. Thank you.

We are going to sign all of the agreements now.

It now my pleasure to recognize our next speaker, Virginia Governor George Allen. This will Governor Allen's last Executive Council meeting, and I want to take this time to thank him on behalf of all the Executive Council members for the hard work and commitment he has brought to this effort. Now, Governor, we know that you enjoy fishing, and we assume as you leave the Governor's office and the Governor's mansion, and all of that, you'll have some extra time for fishing. So we wanted to give you a going away present in keeping with your fishing interest. And let me just see what it is. This is a hat. Now you think it's just a plain hat. It's not really a plain hat, I have to explain. The governor will understand this,

however. Most of you may not know that apparently the Governor donated some of his own money to help build the [fish passage](#) on Boshers Dam in Richmond. And so this hat comes with a complete set of shad darts, and we're hoping that -- well, it actually comes with a stipulation. You just can't use it anywhere. We want you to use these lures to fish for shad above Boshers Dam, which no one has been able to do since 1803.

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Executive Council Members' Reports

Virginia Governor George Allen

Thank you. Well, I'll stick that right there. Thank you, Administrator Browner, Governor Glendening, Governor Ridge, Delegate Murphy, Mayor Barry, ladies and gentlemen, all, it's a pleasure to be once again with you all in participating in the important efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council. We're continuing the improvements and the vitality of the Bay that I think is so essential to the progress and the quality of life that we want for our citizens, as well as expanding opportunities for the people who reside in our region.

I found today's meeting -- actually the closed-door meeting -- to be, of all four I've been to, the very most useful. The Local Government Advisory Committee, the Citizens Advisory Committee, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, all were just fantastic, in that we had a chance actually to discuss various approaches. Each state is taking a site-specific approach consistent with what we think is best in our various states and communities, and to actually be able to exchange some of the experiences that one has, what's applicable, what isn't, different ideas -- Delegate Murphy on some of the initiatives that he'll be caring for. I don't want to present that quite yet, but nevertheless Delegate Murphy and I were talking about various things that we can do in Virginia, and I think all of us learned a great deal, talking to one another as well as all of the people that have put in so much work into those various committees, which I think helps us make better decisions as to how we go forward.

With us -- at least with me today -- is a wonderful team of leaders from Virginia. They're individuals who are dedicated to restoring the Chesapeake Bay; the sound stewardship of all of Virginia's natural resources is their goal. I would like to ask Secretary Becky Dunlop, Kathleen Lawrence for DCR, Mike Clower, and everyone with the Virginia team, would you please stand up. Thank you for all of your professional work.

Ladies and gentleman a hallmark of the Bay program is the flexibility and creativity that it gives each jurisdiction to achieve results. And today I'm pleased to report on Virginia's guiding principles and our progress in enhancing the Chesapeake Bay and our environment.

In Virginia we coupled our commitment to improving natural environments and natural resources with the determination to foster a pro-business climate. It's important that Virginia has a vibrant job-creating economy. And with it, another aspect of it is with the increasing numbers of manufacturers, businesses and entrepreneurs, they're investing, developing and selling newer, cleaner technologies which benefit us all, and not just benefit us here in Virginia and the United States. We have a company called Consumat Systems Inc. in Mechanicsville, Virginia, that now has a contract to sell waste-to-energy ideas to the power companies in Korea. ETS International out of Roanoke has a cutting-edge air pollution technology, and they just signed a deal with China Steel in the Republic of China. Westvaco Corporation in Covington, Virginia, is using a new lime kiln approach that's less emissions, less landfilling, and again as other paper companies come into play they can use that sort of technology across the country and across the world.

We also in Virginia encourage, as do the other states' local communities and individual citizens, to take personal responsibility for our natural resources. Just last week I was very pleased to announce the inaugural Virginia recipients of the Chesapeake Bay Program's, [Chesapeake Bay Partner Community award](#). The creation of this initiative was a priority when I was Chairman of this wonderful council, and the folks in Fairfax County who received the Gold Award -- Albemarle and Prince William Counties, the town of Warrenton and York County are exemplary leaders at the local level in our overall efforts to restore the Bay, and our many other natural resources. Gloria Fisher is our representative, and received the Friend of the Bay Award. She's Virginia's chairman of the [Local Government Advisory Committee](#). And Gloria -- there you are wearing nearly University of Virginia colors -- thank you.

We're using common sense. We're using sound science and new technology. We're involving individuals, private charities, businesses, governments at all levels, and the result is Virginia's environment is good and getting better.

We thank you Administrator Browner for wisely redesignating Hampton Roads area as meeting the strict federal air standards for ozone, and Richmond also meets that standard. I remember we talked about that last year about this time. We have also increased our water monitoring in Virginia by 25 percent to over 1,100 water quality monitoring stations in Virginia, and we feel that good data obviously helps us make better decisions, and get better results, and effective solutions. Virginia monitors water quality in over 29,000 miles of streams and rivers. That's more miles monitored than any other state in the union.

Virginia's cleaning up thousands of leaking underground storage tanks, or reducing the number of hazardous tire piles. We have prisoners working, and helping clean up debris from rivers after floods. We have them even out there planning riparian buffers with myself and Kathleen Lawrence and Becky Dunlop. And it makes a lot of good sense to have prisoners doing that, and it's good for the rivers, and it's good for them to also help out in the parks and communities.

We have a Fall River Renaissance. This is the second year we've done it, and over 11,000 Virginians, businesses, community groups, all got involved in cleaning up rivers and waterways, and bay tributaries. Striped bass have rebounded; Bay underwater sea grasses

also are up. Now, we feel that the Chesapeake Bay is being protected and enhanced to benefit the people of and other Bay states. Last year or earlier this year, with the help of Delegate Murphy carrying some of these ideas through -- last year our administration proposed, and the legislature adopted, the first major investment toward a logical effective strategy in reducing the flow of nutrients into the Chesapeake Bay. This started off I think as an \$11 or \$12 million investment. It went up to \$15 million by the time it got through the legislature as they like to do. But it was the start of a comprehensive plan to address point source pollution, by waste water treatment facilities as well as enhanced nonpoint nutrient reduction efforts throughout our Commonwealth of Virginia. Although much already has been accomplished and much more is well underway, I believe that Virginians need to build upon our successes. Our earlier efforts were not a one-shot deal. Quite the contrary, consistent with our principles we want to go even further.

Today I'm pleased to announce a Virginia action plan to accelerate our rate of progress in cleaning the Bay. It's fine to sign these documents here, but it's also important to act. One of the main reasons we're able to act in this way as I reveal this plan is that we have been very fortunate in Virginia to track many businesses with a positive tax, and competitive tax, and reasonable regulatory policies, a great location, right to work laws, and all the rest. In our Silicon dominion we have attracted \$12 billion of investment over the last 12 years. There are well over 270,000 new jobs being created, so there's greater opportunity. Now a by-product of a very strong economy where job growth is greater than the national average, is a by-product has more tax revenue into the government because more people are working and more businesses are prospering, and because of that we can make certain decisions in this budget that I'll be presenting for 1998 through the year 2000. Education and law enforcement will be the top priorities, but it allows me also to go forth for Virginians, with everyone working together, with an unprecedented -- at least in Virginia -- unprecedented effort which will be a \$60 million initiative that will enable the Commonwealth of Virginia to meet its commitment to reduce nutrient loadings into the Chesapeake Bay 40 percent by the year 2000.

Now as part of Virginia's commitment to meet the 40 percent goal for the Shenandoah and Potomac watersheds, my 1998-2000 budget will include -- I'm going through some of the salient aspects. Number one, we're going to provide additional incentives to clean up the Bay by creating a year 2000 challenge grants that will pay a bonus for the acceleration of point source projects that can help Virginia meet the 40 percent nutrient reduction goal on time. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation was telling us that; you've got to enhance, you've got to double up, you have to make more of an effort. This is specific and consistent with that. It'll accelerate construction schedules for BNR (biological nutrient removal) upgrades, operational enhancements that go beyond current goals, the use of innovative technologies, as well as enhancements that are beyond the water quality effluent limits.

We're secondly going to help with upgrades in expansion and other improvements at Virginia waste water treatment plants by increasing the number of projects funded by the Water Quality Improvement Fund that was established last year. Third, I'm going to propose that the General Assembly expand eligibility in this program so that privately owned treatment plants can participate, such as the Dale City plants, which are on the Potomac River, and they ought to be eligible. Fourth, and the whole area of reducing urban and

agricultural runoff pollution, we want to have the planting of additional grass and riparian buffers to better manage erosion and nutrients; construction of storage sheds, for poultry litter and other animal waste to prevent them from running into the Bay tributaries; funding of no-till farming equipment; pursuing innovative technologies, such as more precise fertilizer application equipment; phytase, which can be added to animal feed to reduce the nutrient content in animal waste, and other strategies such as those to better manage our nonpoint source pollution efforts. Fifth, we'll be increasing the number of professionally trained personnel to develop nutrient management plans in the Shenandoah-Potomac River watersheds. Sixthly, increased financial assistance to farmers so that they can implement these types of improvements to continue reducing nutrients flowing into the Bay. Seventh, we're going to increase substantially Virginia's support for operational improvements at Blue Plains. This is a good innovative idea, and through it this major polluter of the Bay will help reduce the flow of nutrients into the Chesapeake Bay. This is going to help Blue Plains in a big way, and I think it's the right top of regional cooperation, because we all do share the same goal in that regard.

So, friends, that's the comprehensive accelerated nutrient reduction plan that builds upon the percentage reductions Virginia invested in last year, and by moving forward with this action plan Virginia can achieve the 40 percent reduction goal to which we all committed over a decade ago. The plan actually goes a little further than that, in that it also is going to expand state-wide the Nonpoint Source Nutrient Reduction program to include the watersheds of the York, Rappahannock, and James, as well as the Eastern Shore. They'll be eligible for water quality improvement funds. We all understand that these [lower bay tributaries have very minimal impact upon the Bay](#) -- there is some -- but most importantly, the truth is, is we care about all of Virginia's waterways, not just those that have a big impact on the Chesapeake Bay.

So ladies and gentlemen, much environmental progress is being made in Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay is also improving. The people in Virginia are committed to being responsible stewards of the Bay and all of our natural resources. And here today Virginians renew their pledge to continue to work constructively with our neighbors, not just sign agreements, but act. And we're putting money on the table to responsibly get the job done. Together we can enhance our environment, and ensure that the Chesapeake Bay will continue to benefit and be enjoyed by future generations. Thank you all so very much.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you our friend and governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Thomas J. Ridge, who has continued his state's longstanding commitment to the Bay's restoration efforts. He has some very good innovative ideas that I know that all of us as other governors and other communities look to with admiration. He has demonstrated a strong leadership in directing his administration to pursue vigorously the programs and initiatives to which Bay partners have committed themselves. We appreciate his commitment, his ideas, and his leadership. It's my pleasure to present to you the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Tom Ridge.

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Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge

Governor Glendening and I want to lodge -- an official protest to Marion Barry. He got some direct assistance -- this initiative. We applaud you for that, and we're delighted to see that you leave the Executive Council wearing a white hat, because you are -- you are one of the good guys, and it's been a great pleasure for all of us to work with you, and I know I speak for all of our colleagues, that we hope our paths cross on other issues of similar interest. You had a passion for your responsibility of civic stewardship and leadership. We've enjoyed being the beneficiaries of that passion, and we wish you well. Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, 20 years ago Pennsylvanian author James Michener gave us a sweeping view of the Chesapeake Bay and its place in our natural and political history through his novel, "Chesapeake". Michener described the Bay this way through the eyes of one of his 16th century Native American characters -- you can almost close your eyes and see it yourself.

"Pentaquod leaned forth with his paddle across his knees, content to allow his yellow canoe to drift quietly into the Bay. And with each length that the log moved forward he saw some new revelation. The immensity of this water, the way the fish jumped as if they were eager to be caught and tasted, the constant movement of birds back and forth, and the majestic trees lining the shore, and overall the arching sky more blue than any he had seen before."

What Pentaquod realized was the natural beauty of this extraordinary place. A resource created by Providence long ago, and long before a political map was ever contemplated, let alone drawn. A resource whose protection today demands that political boundaries and interests be cast aside. In short, a resource that today needs good neighbors. Pennsylvania is committed to being such a neighbor, in fact we want to be the best upstream and upwind neighbor in the nation. Administrator Browner, that's what we want. And that's why the Bay Program is so very important to us, because like you, we recognize the responsibilities and

the rewards of a shared environment. That's no small change in thinking, but it's an important change; an environmental paradigm shift that should sweep the nation. And a couple of leaders within Pennsylvania that are helping us move our environmental policy and approach in that direction, I would like to introduce to you, for the first time our Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, John Oliver, joins us. John, would you please stand and be recognized. And when John Smith arrived in Jamestown in 1607 I think he was met by our Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, Jim Seif. Jim, would you please.

In Pennsylvania we've tried to bring what we consider to be the [21st century environmental model](#) to the floor. We've tried to lead the charge. We've set new environmental standards based on performance and their ability to improve the environment. We've set new policies to prevent pollution before it happens. We've created policies that have encouraged compliance, not confrontation, and programs that recognize the power of education to achieve environmental success. Why many of these elements are not new to Chesapeake Bay programs, they are very new to most other environmental programs. For example, one of the most significant environmental measures we've adopted in Pennsylvania has been our [land recycling program](#). By encouraging the clean-up and reuse of existing commercial and industrial properties, we not only put people back to work, we protect against the loss of farmland and open space. With over 131 sites cleaned up, and 200 more involved in the clean-up process today, in just two years the results of this program have been outstanding. And we were very pleased this month when the Ford Foundation and Harvard University gave us -- after the tremendous advocacy of the Secretary Seif, their prestigious [1997 Innovations in American Government Award](#). It was the only environmental program to receive an award this year. And it is the type of environmental innovation, this type of thinking outside the traditional way of protecting and enhancing the environment, that we believe is working for Pennsylvania's employers and communities as well. They are learning that it is easier and cheaper to prevent pollution than to manage it after it has been created. High performance companies in today's economy are adopting a management philosophy that strives towards zero defects, zero inventory, and zero workplace accidents. With the encouragement of state government, with increasing frequency they are adding a fourth zero; zero pollution. And if you think this is a pipedream, I say respectfully and proudly, you're wrong.

I had the pleasure to present 10 companies with Pennsylvania's Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards for their efforts towards zero pollution. The combined efforts of just these 10 companies that we publicly recognized resulted in a reduction of liquid waste by nearly 30 million gallons, solid waste by 15 million tons, and air pollution by nearly 19 million tons. That worked out to be an annual savings of nearly 80 million in operating costs for them, and these measures to prevent pollution netted these companies returns of anywhere from 22 to 73 percent on their investments. That's good news for the companies; that's great news for the environment.

And this success has inspired us to take a better look at what type of partnership -- that type of partnership can do for the Bay. We've developed programs to reduce nutrients from animal feed going into the Bay. Pennsylvania is now the only state that requires farmers to

come up with plans to curve the flow of excess nutrients into the Bay. We are lobbying hard in Pennsylvania to get some of the Eastern Shore of Maryland attached to our state. Governor Glendening refused to yield. Nonetheless, we have a responsibility as neighbors, as an upstream neighbor, to curve the flow of excess nutrients into that magnificent resource. And with the help of a special nutrient management board and a state conservation commission, nearly 400,000 acres already have been covered by voluntary nutrient management plans. As of October 1st of this year it is no longer voluntary. It has been very well received, and we expect hundreds of thousands of acres to be added in the next months and years ahead.

We're proud of the accomplishment in our partnership with the agricultural industry. But agriculture is only one of our important partners in this effort. Local and county governments play a pivotal role, especially when it comes to the Bay. They set the guidelines when it comes to development. They install and maintain water and waste water systems. They also provide opportunities to educate landowners on the environmental consequences of their actions. And with their help we have moved closer to our goal, 2,010 miles of stream buffers in place by 2010. Our rivers conservation program has provided nearly \$2 million to communities in the last two years, and with the help of county conservation districts and volunteer groups we've managed to rescue more than a half million trees and shrubs. These trees will now be used to cover nearly 300 miles of streamside buffers, half of Pennsylvania's share of our goal. It was successful projects like these that were the centerpiece of Pennsylvania's first Greenways and Trails conference. With more than 550 participants, it was the largest Greenways issue conference in the country. And Pennsylvania's leadership in the promotion of greenways and trails was recognized this year when we received the American Greenways DuPont Award. Clearly, Pennsylvania's approach is working, and working well.

Take a look of what we've done for the Susquehanna River. Because of Pennsylvania's efforts [nutrient loads in the Susquehanna](#) from Pennsylvania are down significantly, cut by 53 percent for phosphorus and nearly 20 percent for nitrogen. While this clearly is progress, we're not prepared to rest. We continue to press forward with pilot projects to demonstrate new technology that will reduce nitrogen from both the Harrisburg and State College waste water plants. Today I'll appoint a new 14-member forum on nonpoint source pollution that will make recommendations on how we can achieve further reductions from nonpoint sources of nutrients. The efforts started in 1987 to clean up the Chesapeake Bay have begun to show some impressive results. The reliance on partnership, prevention and participation to achieve those results are a model for others to follow. And that is exactly what we in Pennsylvania propose. The Chesapeake Bay experience should be a model for other environmental programs. What we need is a broader partnership with the Federal government to restore and protect our shared environment. In Pennsylvania we're still fighting to create that type of partnership on other issues.

When I came into office in 1995 our General Assembly had just dismantled a Vehicle Emissions Inspection program; forced the state to withdraw from the Reformulated Fuels program and derail other clean air strategies. And you know what? I agreed with them. Because no one bothered to invite the people who would be affected by those controls to the table. No one bothered to find out what they thought. We weren't partners. So in 1996 we

assembled clean air stakeholders groups in Pittsburgh and in Philadelphia to develop ozone reduction plans. We brought the shareholders, the stakeholders, the citizens; everybody into the process, accepting that broader responsibility of citizenship that says, it's good we have a Clean Air Act, but how do we help ourselves in the government comply with these standards. They first agreed on the problem we faced, and then recommended strategies to deal with that problem. We also appointed a special working group to develop our Vehicle Emissions Inspection program. As a result of adopting that kind of approach we have now adopted tough new controls on power plant emissions, developed a better clean fuel plan, and have AAA and service station dealer support for our Vehicle Emission Inspection program. Just as the Chesapeake Bay Program realized long ago, no state, no one is in this alone. It takes more than one state to solve a significant environmental problem. Regional solutions must be found for our common ozone pollution problem. We've got to work in our airshed like we have in Chesapeake Bay watershed to improve air quality. But just as we hold ourselves accountable for pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, and I say states like Ohio, West Virginia, and the Mid-West states that contribute to Pennsylvania's ozone problem, must be willing to do their part to shoulder the burden and reduce the pollution they cause in Pennsylvania. Our recent participation in the 37-state Ozone Transport Assessment Group and petition to EPA underscores our resolve to work toward a regional solution, just as the Chesapeake Bay challenge will require a regional solution. For everyone does their share and are accountable for their sources of pollution in dealing with a particular environmental problem. I've vowed to fight for a solution to the air problem, and I invite all Bay partners to join me in this effort.

As I prepared for this meeting I was reminded of something fellow Pennsylvania, Jay Horisman McFarland (phonetic) said to at the beginning of this century -- Secretary Seif knew him well. For those of you who don't know, Secretary McFarland helped organize the City Beautiful movement in the early 1900s, was the father of the National Park Service, and served as a colleague of the Sierra Club's John Muir. When asked in 1915 what his epitaph should be he gave this reply. "Here dwelled a man who loved a garden. Who lived in and grew with it, and who yet looks upon it, even from afar, as a garden for all who loved the beauties of God's green earth." Pennsylvania's view of the Chesapeake Bay is reflected in these words. As we each work to restore the Bay in our environment, remember, that we are not only working for ourselves, but for so many others so that they can enjoy the beauty of God's green earth. Thank you.

I ask my colleagues to please excuse me. I have to leave a little bit early, but before I do I would like to introduce the next speaker. The only beneficiary it seems to us of the initiative of the direct beneficiary of Governor Allen's plan outside the Commonwealth of Virginia, our host, our neighbor, our partner, someone who's worked with us during this past several years in his collaborative effort to meet the challenges of the Chesapeake Bay to improve the quality of life for his citizens and ours, it's my pleasure to introduce to you, the mayor of Washington, D.C., Marion Barry.

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Executive Council Members' Reports

District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry

Thank you very much, Governor Ridge. First of all, let me take full credit for the weather we have here in Washington. Since some people blamed me for the blizzard of '96, and God brings them both. And also, Governor Allen, since you're leaving the governorship, I have an assignment. I want you to join Norv Turner at the Redskins and help them so in the future they can beat the Ravens from Baltimore.

To Carol Browner; to George Allen, Governor from Virginia; Parris Glendening in Maryland; to Governor Tom Ridge; to Tayloe Murphy, who is chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, let me indicate my great delight and great pleasure to once again be a part of this. Those of us in the District want the Chesapeake Bay to be cleaned up, not only because a number of our citizens use it, it's just the right thing to do. And so it's time for us to look back at our accomplishments, an opportunity to look forward to new challenges and strategies that will help clean up the Bay. We in the District are going to do our part.

In 1987 the District, along with other jurisdictions that make up the signers of the Bay Program, signed an agreement to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus in the Chesapeake Bay by 40 percent. We know what this would do. As part of this agreement we have prepared a nutrient reduction strategy in the District. In it we have outlined the steps we would take at [Blue Plains](#) to reduce 4 million tons of nitrogen, 120,000 pounds of phosphorus entering the Bay from the District. Our Blue Plains treatment plant, which is the largest in the nation, is exploring the applicability of a three-stage biological nitrogen removal program under a pilot project, involving half the flow entering the facility. Following evaluation of the results of this pilot project, if it's concluded that the process really works, we will do that for the entire plant. Our plant is a 309 million gallons a day facility. The progress is encouraging, the process is encouraging, and we intend to do all we can to meet this year 2000 goal of 40 percent reduction in phosphorus and nitrogen. However, Ms. Browner is going to take some money from the Federal government. We don't have a state so we have to rely on the

Federal government as our state to help do that. We also have signed a consent agreement with EPA, and we're meeting that requirement, which again will help to reduce the nutrients coming from Blue Plains. Also we are aware that a New Water and Sewer Authority was created in 1996, with representatives from the District, Maryland, and Virginia. And this authority is committed to bringing Blue Plains into the 21st century, and in fact the authority has committed budgetarily \$1.7 billion over the next 10 years to improve the water and sewer system in the District of Columbia.

I'd like to also recognize Jerry Johnson, who's our general manager of the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, and Governor Allen -- we stole him from Richmond, so he knows how to get things done. I'd like for Jerry Johnson to stand. Where's Jerry? And also I'd like to ask all the staff from the District -- Jim -- and others to stand so we can recognize those hard-working staff people who do the work on a daily basis. Why don't you all stand, and thank you so much for your hard work.

As we know, the [Anacostia River](#) flows into the Potomac River, and to attract the public's attention to the Anacostia River school children from the Anacostia watershed and those of us who care about the Anacostia River, held an Anacostia River Earth Day celebration, rejoined by Vice President, Al Gore, who encouraged all of us to take responsibility in cleaning up Anacostia and caring for our land. We have much to celebrate, for Anacostia is much cleaner today than it was 10 years ago. We're making progress in cleaning up the rivers and restoring some of the natural resources. The fish in the river are back. Not only are they back, but people are fishing. Not only are they fishing, they can eat the fish that they catch. Also working with local agencies and the Federal government we have done 35 acres of wetlands the Aquatic Gardens. There's a plan to create another 75 acres of wetlands in the Keyman Lake and the Anacostia River. The District is in the process of completing this comprehensive wetland restoration plan.

The District is also operating a floatable debris removal program. You ought to go down and see all the debris which is brought out of that river everyday. It improves the appearance of the river, and also the safety of the rivers of those who are boating. In fact the river is now a place for several university crew rowing teams to practice and to use that river in a very positive way. However, Anacostia still presents challenges. We require continuous improvement efforts. One challenge involves our combined sewer system. In the early 80s the District conducted a study of the CSO issue, and based on what we found out, we built floater -- dams within the sewer system to reduce overflow in the waste water to Blue Plains, where it is treated. We have also constructed a facility near the RFK Stadium, to treat some of these combined flows. We are pleased to announce what with financial assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency -- thank you, Carol -- we're beginning a \$7 million project to reassess the CSO problem. When this is complete we'll have a better idea of how serious and extensive the CSO issue is. We will identify the technology and the management tools, and the resources that can be used to deal with this problem.

The other part of the Anacostia problem is pollution from upstream. A lot of the pollution in the Anacostia River comes from upstream in Maryland. In 1987 the District signed an agreement with Governor Harry Hughes of Maryland to work on this. We updated that with

the [Anacostia Watershed Restoration Agreement](#) -- was signed by two neighboring counties, United States Army Corps of Engineers, State of Maryland, and others. We have begun working together, but quite frankly, more has to be done to stop the pollution from those two counties coming into Washington, and then into the Potomac.

The good news, I'd like to ask Governor Glendening to come forward for a minute. You may recall, March 28, 1993 -- I'm not going to ask you for any money, even though we need it -- the rupture of Colonial Pipeline Company's pipeline released oil into the Sugarland (phonetic) Run in Virginia, which ended up in the Potomac. It caused quite a bit of damage to the river's natural resources. We've been working with Colonial Pipeline Company, the State of Virginia, and federal officials to recover some of the costs. I'm pleased to announce that a proposed settlement has been agreed upon, and we'd like to make good use of that money. As I said earlier, we need all we can get, but we're very generous here. And many of us worked many years to identify funding for the fish passage, for rockfish, shad, and herring. As a result of the proposed settlement I am pleased to present to Governor Glendening, a check -- put it in your pocket -- for \$253,014 as the District's contribution to the construction of the [fish passage over the Little Falls Dam](#). That was a sacrifice.

Let me also say -- I'm not going to be able to stay after I introduce Tayloe Murphy. I'm a little bit behind schedule, and I have some other things to do. But I am pleased to introduce Delegate Tayloe Murphy, Jr., a member of the Virginia House of Delegates since 1982, and a spokesperson for the environment. His concern for the environment is also reflected in where he lives, on a farm in Northern Neck -- Virginia. He serves on the Virginia Commission on Population Growth and Development, and on the Southeast Compact Commission for Low Level Radioactive Waste Management. As a current chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission he will report to you on their achievements and accomplishments for the past year. I now present to you, Delegate Tayloe Murphy, Jr. Thank you and God bless.

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Chesapeake Bay Commission Chairman Delegate W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.

Thank you, Mayor Barry, Administrator Browner, Governors Allen and Glendening, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am pleased to speak to you this afternoon as a representative of my fellow state legislators, who have proved to be a powerful voice for the Chesapeake Bay since the program began in 1983. I also want to thank my colleagues on the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#) who have again made me their chairman. As a result of their support I stand before you for the third time as a member of this distinguished Council. I hope that I can live up to the high expectations that the Commission has come to expect from its leaders.

I am very proud of the accomplishments of the Commission, and I could use all of my time to recount the many successful legislative initiatives it has undertaken. The Commission's efforts have resulted in substantial improvements in water quality throughout the Bay watershed. But rather than recite a litany of commission achievements, I'm going to begin my talk by emphasizing how important the [Bay's fisheries](#), both commercial and recreational, are to the economies of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and especially to the Northern Neck of Virginia, that beautiful peninsula between the tidal Rappahannock and the Potomac, where I was blessed to have been born and raised, and which I have the honor of representing in the Virginia House of Delegates. With freed absences for schooling and military service, I have spent my entire life in the Northern Neck. For over 60 years I've had the pleasure of sailing its waters, and harvesting its fishery of resources for my personal enjoyment. During that time I've also seen the degradation that has occurred and the accompanying decline in the harvest of thin fish, crabs, and oysters. But now I'm a witness to its slow recovery, and there is nothing that I would rather do than help speed up and enhance that recovery. It is a privilege to be able to participate in this worthwhile effort.

Notwithstanding the decline in our fishery resources, they remain economically valuable and ecologically important. The commercial and recreational fishing industries are

important in terms of their monetary contribution to the economies of all three Bay states, and the number of jobs they provide. Two hundred and fifty types of fish, crabs, clams, and oysters live in the Bay. Together they have a commercial value of more than \$1 billion annually. Half of the national catch of the Atlantic blue crab is harvested from Bay Waters. In the Northern Neck the menhaden fishery is dominant, however few people are aware of its size or appreciate its importance to Virginia's economy. But this year has been especially difficult for the fishing industry, because it has to cope, not only with harvest far below historic levels, but as well, declining sales resulting from the public concern over the recent outbreaks of Pfiesteria. Although more remains unknown than known concerning this problem, there are certain things we do know. We know that Pfiesteria has been in the Bay for a long time. We know that it is a single-cell organism that has as many as 24 life stages, some of which are toxic. We know that when a variety of conditions coincide there's a stronger possibility for Pfiesteria to become harmful. We also know that these conditions include moderate salinities, still waters, warm water temperatures, large concentrations of fish, and elevated nutrient levels. We can do very little, if anything, about water temperatures, or salinities, or rates of flow, or even concentrations of fish, but we can do something about nutrient levels. While we cannot be positive that reducing nutrient levels will prevent Pfiesteria outbreaks, we do know that further reductions will be good for the Bay.

As we strive to restore its health and enhance its living resources, we should keep in our mind's eye the image of those rugged individuals we call watermen, because they symbolize all of those whose interest in the Bay depends upon the productive uses of the water as opposed to those whose uses degrade its quality. Although the watermen, or the harvesters, or the fishery resources, that we see as threatened by everyone else's activities, their use of the Bay, reasonably exercised, receives less protection than other users whose activities are generally more harmful. For example, a waste discharger who obtains and complies with all required permits may nevertheless foul the water. And when a riparian property owner engages in lawful and disturbing activities he may still pollute the adjoining waters through uncontrolled runoff. There is no principle in our common law, nor is there any statute or regulation which makes these users answerable for the resulting damage. The difficulty with permitting a rulemaking process at any level is that it generally works only to mitigate environmental damage and not to eliminate it. From the perspective of the watermen the cost of this damage, even in a reduced amount, is paid for by them. In order for these individuals' interests to be given more protection we must find ways to supplement our regulatory programs to improve water quality with non-regulatory initiatives that promote healthier waters and healthier aquatic habitat.

Today the members of the Council have signed three directives which move us toward that objective. First, let us examine the nutrient directive which focuses our attention on the future. The directive challenges the signatories to hasten and augment current efforts to meet the 40 percent nutrient reduction goal. The first commitment is to implement fully all that we have said we would do in our tributary strategies. According to the model runs, if we do this we will move closer to reaching our goals, at least for those [portions of the watershed from the Potomac River north](#). For the southern tributaries we must complete the modeling effort as soon as possible. Without this information the strategies for the Rappahannock, the

James and the York remain incomplete. I submit however, that we should move forward with the development of these strategies using 40 percent as an interim goal. If the model indicates a higher goal, we will have to increase our efforts. On the other hand, if it suggests a lower one, we can take pride in having exceeded the goal.

The directive also identifies real [opportunities for the further reduction of nutrients](#). These opportunities must be pursued if we are to maintain improved water quality levels once they have been achieved. Maintaining the cap will be exacerbated by the population increases projected for the watershed. More people will bring about changes in the landscape. These changes are subtle when viewed in isolation, but when viewed across the watershed they are like a landslide that begins with a few pebbles rolling down a hillside. Without careful planning this landslide can only mean that the Bay will become the dumping ground for more and more nutrients. To avoid this we must accelerate full implementation of the tributary strategies to reach our year 2000 goals on schedule. I believe the initiatives like the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Act of 1997 with the clear enhancement of Governor Allen's announcement today for the additional funds for these purposes, and Maryland's new conservation reserve enhancement program will provide the additional benefits necessary to achieve the accelerated implementation that is needed.

Today the Council has made a commitment to strengthen our goals. First, we have agreed to complete work on the models, models that will allow us to incorporate the water quality needs of submerged aquatic vegetation and the bottom-dwelling organisms so vital to the Bay's food chain. After completion of the modeling work, goals establishing in water maximum pollutant low levels will be developed. Instead of a percentage reduction, our goal will be based on the pollution level that the Bay's resources are able to handle. This commitment is extraordinarily significant, because the Council will now require the establishment of maximum nutrient loads that the Bay can accept and still produce healthy and abundant living resources. It ought to be well received in fishing villages throughout the region. This is a good move and it is the right move. In the 1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement we said that we would -- and I quote -- "reduce and control pollution to attain the water quality conditions necessary to support the living resources of the Bay. The nutrient directive will move us closer to that laudable objective.

Directive 97-3 launches the [Community Watershed Initiative](#). I am quite proud of this initiative because the Chesapeake Bay Commission was the catalyst for the action that the Executive Council has taken in this directive. The idea is simple. For the Bay Program to work, our goals must be implemented, at least in part, at the local level. Of course federal and state agencies will still have major roles to play. In order for the Bay Program to be effective each unit of government must accept its responsibility as a necessary part of a combined function. The Federal government has a rightful role in the protection of the environment, for it alone has the resources to undertake the planning, research, standards setting, and technical assistance that make possible the development and attainment of long-range goals. On the other hand, the states must accept the political and fiscal responsibility that makes them equal partners in a federal system. The states are best suited to administer and enforce most environmental programs, and they must continue to ensure that the laws and programs they administer are vigorously pursued and evenly enforced.

While federal and state initiatives are critical, there's another source of effort which must be encouraged. By that I mean environmental efforts, both public and private at the local level. It is for this reason that the Chesapeake Bay Commission called for the adoption of a Community Watershed Initiative, a call to which the Executive Council has responded favorably. We are encouraged by the Council's support. We thank each of you for it.

The Commission believes that the cumulative benefits derived from many community-based watershed projects will mean continued progress toward a healthier Bay. It's decline has occurred over a long period of time, and is the result of the cumulative impact of many activities that are of little apparent consequence in themselves. A subdivision here, a road there, a new field cleared from woodland, but collectively they have consequences that radiate like ripples on a still pond. A reversal of that decline and the restoration of water quality to the level we seek will result from the cumulative impact of many small undertakings. The development of a Community Watershed Initiative will give the Bay's citizens and their communities the knowledge, the tools, and the financial and technical assistance needed to make wise decisions, and to take the actions necessary to reach our long-range goals.

This is also the case with our wetlands directive. Despite the controversy that has surrounded past efforts at wetlands management, we know that they play a vital role in water quality and provide critical habitat for the propagation of the Bay's living resources. The directive calls for a redoubling of efforts to map and inventory this resource, and it directs the establishment of a quantifiable goal for net resource gains. Quantifiable goals have kept us on track and have kept us accountable. They are important to the overall success of the Bay program and they are appropriate in this context. Perhaps even more significant, this directive calls for a commitment to assist local governments and community watershed organizations in the development of a community-based approach to wetlands preservation and restoration, based on the success of wetland assessment projects to be undertaken in three pilot watersheds. This is another recognition of the need to reach out to individual communities, and to give them what they need to support the Bay and the Bay program's current wetland policy. If we are ever going to achieve our goal of no net loss and realize a net gain, it will come through the cumulative effect of many small, yet significant actions.

This year the Commission is revisiting each of the Bay's fundamental problems, nutrient over enrichment, toxic pollution, and the restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation. We have spent the year evaluating our programs in attempting to identify opportunities for improvement. It has become apparent throughout our examination that where there is dedicated local initiative, there is success. If farmers believe in conservation, BMPs are installed. If local citizens want to curb sprawl, comprehensive plans get rewritten. Local initiatives will contribute significantly to the achievement of Bay Program goals. We encourage the participation of citizens throughout the watershed as well as county and municipal officials. The Commission, representing the state legislative arm of the Bay Program, will work with the other members of this Council, and with communities throughout the watershed, to ensure that the directives we have signed today are fully implemented. But in the end it will be the ordinary citizens working at the local level who will be responsible for the successful implementation of their 1997 directives. I hope their

involvement will grow and that the Bay will prosper from their participation. Thank you very much.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you his excellency, the Honorable Parris Glendening, Governor of Maryland, and to announce an action that my colleagues and I took earlier today. Administrator Browner has served ably for two 1-year terms as chair of the Executive Council, but she has decided to retire. Fortunately, Governor Glendening has agreed to serve this year as their chairman. This is good news. Maryland's stake in the Bay is huge, and for the entire life of the Council, Maryland has been a leader with Senator Charles Mathias' early leadership, then with Governor Hughes and Governor Schaefer and up to the present, Maryland can be proud of their stewardship. I assure the Bay community that this national treasure remains in good hands with Governor Glendening. Please join me in giving him a very warm welcome.

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Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening

We were actually going to have a public election up here, and I had so looked forward to Governor Allen voting for me in public there, and he was already to nominate me and everything, but thank you for your support, I appreciate it very much.

Let me just say how pleased we are to be here this afternoon in what is a very impressive setting, and I want to thank Mr. Fri and the members of the Museum of Natural History for their help and assistance here today, not just for this presentation, but also for their hospitality throughout the day. And I think we ought to give them a hand, if we could as well. Let me also thank Administrator Browner, who is now the former chair, but has done a tremendous job for all of us, and I know I speak on behalf of my colleagues, when I tell you that we appreciate your work here for the Council, and we also appreciate the tremendous work that you are doing as EPA Administrator.

You noticed each and every presenter here asked for more money, and so I will change the path just a little bit and make a presentation if I might to recognize the work that you have done for us here. You understand of course that doesn't mean that I can't ask for more money also. Let me, if I might as a tradition at this time, just comment on a few of the things that Maryland has done as we move ahead in our struggle to protect the Bay. During our nutrient reevaluation this year we looked to see what progress has been made and where we are headed. I was very pleased in Maryland.

We will be able to make our original 40 percent goal in almost all the tributaries of Maryland by the set date of 2000, and the whole Bay there shortly after. But the [results of the reevaluation](#) are only part of the story. We obviously need to do more. We have seen the warning in our creeks and rivers that something is not right. As my colleagues have mentioned the Pfiesteria issue has many of us walking, if you will, a very tight edge, a knife's edge in the past several months, to, on the one hand, try not to underplay what is a

serious condition -- an environmental condition with dead fish and sick people, and rivers under attack, and at the same time trying to make sure that we do not sensationalize it, taking appropriate action without delay, but not rushing to judgment. I will tell you, my father used to relay this story, and I think during the last several months it has come back to my mind several times, about how the miners in Scotland, and then later in West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and Western Maryland, used to take canaries into the mines with them. And when the canary would die they knew that they had gas in the mine, and left immediately. Well like those miners who went into the mine shaft with the canaries, we are learning by way of the Pfiesteria issue. Pfiesteria and the dying fish in many ways are our canaries. We also are learning how tremendously complex the environment is in general, and especially here in the Chesapeake Bay, the health of the Bay is tied to human health and to the health of the economy. One thing is very clear, that is that we cannot continue to use the same approaches to managing the Bay's health in 1997 that we used in 1987 or in 1977. We must move to new ways of looking at the Chesapeake, a bay that encompasses, if you will, the entire ecosystem.

If we're being honest about our efforts to restore and preserve the Bay and its tributaries, we can no longer just calculate how many houses we cram into a particular area, or how many strip malls we can throw up, or how many trees we can cut down. Rather, we must ask ourselves, how much load can this watershed take? How many tons of nitrogen or phosphorus can this river or stream absorb? Just how many tons before it becomes another casualty to ignorance, or indifference, or greed? And we have finally learned that the ecosystem, the water, the air, the land that all living things, including us, that inhabit the area are indeed interconnected. Everything is tied to one another, as if it were a fine mosaic connected by a delicate harmony.

During the last several months and the last year, we have been making a number of efforts to deal with this combined ecosystem. Let me just take a moment to tell you what Maryland has been accomplishing, and how we have turned some of our words into deed. Last April our legislature passed, and I signed into law, Maryland's historic [Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Bill](#), and special Brownfields and Rural Legacy legislation as well. These are designed to protect our rapidly disappearing natural areas, and to slow down the spread of suburban sprawl. I want to thank the legislature for passing that bill, and passing it in record time -- one session. I know several of the delegates are here; I saw Delegate Wood here. And I just thank everyone for your support.

Last October we pledged to plant 600 miles of [riparian forest buffer](#) by the year 2010, to create stream bank habitats to keep nutrients from the tributaries. And this October I'm very proud to report that we have already put 41 miles of buffer into place. We also invented our own [Bay Game](#), and some 500,000 young people played this summer and learned about the Bay, while having fun doing so. And in an urban school, where 95 percent of one class of children and their teachers had never ever seen the Chesapeake Bay, they used the Bay Game as a basis for a trip across the Bay Bridge to Ocean City, had a great time, and learned as they did. And along that educational line, more than 22 million motorists have seen the Bay fact signs as they cross the Bay Bridge, learning about jellyfish, horseshoe crabs, geese, and oysters. To safeguard the health and prevent airborne pollutants from reaching the

Chesapeake, we began a new phase of our auto emissions control programs this October, and as a result 71 tons of pollutants a day will be kept out of our atmosphere, the Bay, and its tributaries. And to help local governments implement Smart Growth, Maryland packaged all of our land use products into a single, technology tool box, we offer to the planners, and local government, and those who need up-to-date data, so that they can help make Smart Growth decisions. Our tributary teams are 300 plus volunteers, and a wonderful mixture of visionaries and ecological strategists, and environmental implementers. Undoubtedly, the economic, environmental, and cultural diversity of the teams ensures the broadest possible agenda is developed.

And of course no narrative of this past year's activities will be complete without the discussion of toxic [Pfiesteria](#). By now we have all come to realize that what some individuals call the "cell from hell" is part mystery, part pest, and something that has been around for a long time. But for reasons we do not yet completely understand it manifests itself in 1997 in Maryland as a threat to human health, economic viability, and our environmental well being. It is important to understand that Pfiesteria occurred here in Maryland and in Virginia, and it is part of our national trend of more and more severe outbreaks of harmful organisms that threaten our health and our environment. This is not an isolated incident that just affects a few of the Bay's tributaries. As you can see from these national charts that we have here, that were furnished to us by NOAA, incidents of fish kills increased in frequency and severity. The bottom line is, what will this map look like 10 years from now if we do not change the way we treat the environment and manage our natural resources. We could face the most serious problem of all -- water that no longer sustains life.

So the question is, what are we going to do about it? Quite frankly, I think we are all committed to do everything that we can, because there can be no doubt, no argument, no saying let's wait until we're 100 percent sure. The message has been about as clear as it gets. We must recognize that our actions on the land have resulted in very unhealthy reactions in the water. And I say without reservation, that we will do whatever is necessary to prevent toxic Pfiesteria in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The decisive actions that we have already taken are proof that we intend to follow through in this.

We closed [affected rivers](#), and kept them closed because the safety of our citizens is the first concern. We immediately appointed an expert medical research team to establish whether or not there was a link between Pfiesteria and human health. And because that group of top notch experts found a link, we established strict protocols for closing and opening the waterways that put human health as our first priority. I authorized an immediate [\\$2 million for cover crops](#), and worked with the President and Congress for the additional \$7 million in federal funding to help us learn more about this cell and how to deal with its stress. We established a [citizen's Pfiesteria Commission](#), chaired by well respected environmentalist and former Governor Harry Hughes. This is a broad-based multi-interest panel who helped us examine our next actions. The panel is scheduled to report initial findings the first week of November, and I will use those recommendations as the basis for additional action to safeguard the health of our citizens and protect our waterways.

In September we called an [Interstate Governors Conference](#) to make sure that the Bay-wide problem would have Bay-wide solutions. We signed an agreement of regional cooperation between Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. And I thank the Governors that were here, as well as Governor Carper, and Underwood, and Hunt, for their help in responding to our call for a conference in less than one week's time. Let me also -- and he had to leave -- but thank Governor Ridge for his actions to help regulate animal waste. The governor took very positive steps in addressing this nonpoint issue, and it particularly is of help to us who live downstream. To ensure the economic health of Maryland we have also authorized a \$500,000 marketing campaign to reassure the people of Maryland our seafood is safe, like the rockfish we had for lunch. And to better understand the link between the Bay, its tributaries, and poultry-growing operations, and animal feed loss, we authorized funding for three teams made up of Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Planners and Department of Environment Sanitarians, and they work together to collect information about how farms manage the manure that they produce, and what happens thereafter. I will soon also announce an extension of Maryland's Crop Cover program to extend the number of acres that are covered.

Let me interrupt my comments here just briefly, and acknowledge two people who have shown determination and courage in their struggle, both here in Maryland and elsewhere. They stepped forward during our Pfiesteria emergency just at the time that they were most needed to protect our health and help us understand what is going on. And as a result, I am very pleased to present to them what is Maryland's highest award, the Admiral of the Chesapeake. I would ask, if I could, Dr. Joann Burkholder and Dr. Glen Morris, if they would come forward, so we might recognize the tremendous work that they have done.

Let me also, if I might -- this was a team effort -- recognize our staff members who are here with us as well, and especially Jane Nishida -- Secretary of the Environment; John Griffin, the Secretary of Natural Resources; and a number of other people who did such a key job. If our staff members would stand for a moment so that we could express our appreciation.

Let me just note, that when we talk about Pfiesteria and all these studies and everything, sometimes what gets lost is that we're talking about people. We're talking about their lives and livelihoods, their families and their futures. When we talk about economic impact for example, we mean individuals like Scott Beecham in Westover, and the question of whether or not he will be able to continue his small chicken farm. When we talk about long-term environmental impact, we mean people like Buddy Harrison and his sons, and whether or not they will be able to keep working on the water as they have for generations. When we talk about human health, we mean people like Laurie Maddox, who will hopefully never have to relive that terrifying day when she simply couldn't remember. And when we talk about cleaning up the rivers in the Bay, we really mean talking about what each of us is willing to sacrifice and what we are willing to do.

Pfiesteria is not just about policy, it is about people, and our goals for the future must encompass the entire ecosystem, including the people that live in that system. And we've learned a lot and we've accomplished a number of things, but it is time for us to look forward. The next steps, as we undertake these here in subsequent years, may not be described as particularly sexy, or exciting, or absolutely crystal clear. The hard work ahead

is going to be what we call the grunt work, the hardest work of any project, but it is the work that makes a vision a reality. And what I'm talking about is making the preservation and protection of the Bay part of an ethos or a political culture about where we should be. And implementing Smart Growth to stop sprawl and re-invigorate our established areas, and make tougher land use decisions. And working closer with our Congressional delegation and the national administration, as well as improving our interstate working relations. And increasing our attention to research, including basic research.

Let me comment just very quickly on each of these. First is the change in the way everyone thinks about our environment and how we use the land. I'm talking about a fundamental, almost cultural change in our approach to land use development. What I envision is a broad embrace of what we might call an environmental ethos. For example, regarding Smart Growth, think about it this way. It was only 25 years ago when pollution and environmental problems in the Chesapeake Bay were really brought to the forefront. Since then "Save the Bay" has become more than a slogan; it has become a way of life in Maryland. Literally everyone in Maryland has some familiarity with the "Save the Bay" philosophy.

If we're going to be successful in the long run we need the same thing in terms of Smart Growth. Our challenge is to have the general public, business, environmentalists, builders -- literally everyone -- understand the simple but profound philosophy behind Smart Growth. And that is that we cannot continue to use taxpayer dollars to destroy the environment. Instead we must use taxpayer dollars to revitalize existing communities and preserve our heritage. Education in the classroom and community stewardship will be two other strategies that play a key role in developing an environmental ethos. And I commend the Chesapeake Bay Commission for the efforts to establish individual and community responsibility through the Community Watershed resolution, and hope to take an active part in implementing that directive that we signed today. We must create an ethos or a culture that ensures our young people and adults, who do not even live near the Bay, understand and care about the Bay.

Next, we must work with our Congressional delegation and our Bay program partners to increase federal participation in our efforts. For instance, should the Citizens Pfiesteria Commission recommend that new regulations be put in place to keep nutrients from our waterways, then we must work together to ensure that similar regulations are national in scope, because if the regulations are not national in scope, it will be as the chicken producer, Jim Purdue, said to me just a few weeks ago, "The playing field will not be level." And a level playing field is essential for Maryland poultry farmers.

In addition to a level playing field we need additional federal funding for the fields, and the parking lots, and the suburban lawns, that give off nonpoint pollution. This is the 25th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. That historic legislation resulted in cleaner water, more fish and shell fish, and more bay grasses. But the gains that we have made were primarily a result of federal funding. These allowed many local communities to build new watershed treatment plants, upgrade existing plants, and extend service to areas that had failing septic systems. The fact remains that point source pollution is easier to fix than nonpoint, but nonpoint is still very expensive, and we need our federal partner. That's why I was very pleased when we just announced the [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#), and

working with our federal Congressional delegation and the national administration, we were pleased to announce a program that will protect over 100,000 acres of Bay and streamside farmland with forest buffers and wetlands. This program combines \$170 million in federal funds with \$25 million in state funds to make sure that we move ahead into the next century by implementing our goals.

Finally, research and preservation must be tied together. We must make sure that we fully coordinate basic human health research with our environmental research. We cannot allow one hand to operate independently of the other. We need to increase the amount of federal support on basic research and monitoring. Fish kills and Pfiesteria are not just a Maryland problem, just as you saw on the slide just a few moments ago; they need a national solution. I testified recently before the United States Congress on this, and the chairman asked me -- he said, "Governor, exactly what is it that you want?" And I told him, that according to many experts Pfiesteria had been around for at least 10,000 years. Some people claim that it's been around for 400 million years, and what I wanted to know, is why did it become active and toxic right in the middle of my administration? After the committee also laughed, they understood the basic point -- what is it that we are doing that is taking something that's been around for 10,000 years and making it lethal to fish and toxic to humans? That type of basic research must be done.

In keeping with the wonderful spirit of this museum here, one of the things I think we can do, and I hope everyone even takes a few moments today -- and that is to learn from the past as we move into the future. And we must heed the call to do more than we are doing now. We must do more to keep nitrogen and phosphorus from entering the Bay and its tributaries. We must do more to ensure that the ecosystem management is implemented throughout the watershed and throughout our thinking. We must do more to make sure that Smart Growth type projects direct future growth. We must do more to restore the habitat on the land and in the water.

As you leave this hall today, take a look around and you'll see some horrifying lessons. In the Bird Hall for instance you'll get to meet Martha. Martha is a stuffed bird. She was the last passenger pigeon on earth. The end of an entire species. She died in a Cincinnati zoo in 1914. At one time she and her flock literally darkened the skies of this continent, and now her race has been wiped out forever -- made extinct.

Now I know that this is the most extreme example of how our actions can affect the natural world, but it's not the only examples that you'll find right here. When you visit the Marine Ecosystem Hall, or the Mammal Hall, look anew and see what we did to the buffalo, the wolf, and dozens of other species. And think about what we almost did to the bald eagle or the rockfish. The lessons are here for us to see.

Years from now I want my son, Raymond, who is just 17, and his children, to see rockfish in the Bay. I want them to see blue crabs swimming, and bay grass waving. I do not want them to have to come to a museum to see these wonders of the past. I do not want the only bald eagle or osprey -- that they see to be stuffed, or the crabs that they eat to be imported, or the geese that they hear to be on the National Geographic Special.

It is our duty to leave to them no less than we had. It is our opportunity to leave to them

even more. Working together as we're doing here I believe we can make progress, but we must keep a very steady course to that vision.

Let me conclude with a story. I'll wake some people up as well since it's been a long day. But in terms of keeping a steady course on that vision of what we're trying to do, General Vesey, a World War II hero, just recently told the story. He talked about a couple that had been married for 30 years, and unfortunately the husband -- poor Billy -- died. And they had a funeral. And after the funeral -- the grave site was just off from the church, but down a little bit of a hill. And as the pallbearers were carrying the casket down this little curve to the graveyard, one of them slipped. And boy, the casket fell, and poor Billy rolled out, and as he did his head hit a rock, and he came to. He wasn't dead after all. And they lived together for another 10 years, happily as man and wife. And then unfortunately, poor Billy died again. And they had the same funeral. And as they were leaving the church, and they started down that same little path, and they got to that curve where the incident had occurred before, you could hear the wife, Mary, in the back saying, "Steady boys, steady." What we need is that same steady progress. Thank you so very much.

CAROL BROWNER: Thank you, Governor Glendening, and before we conclude today, it is important to recognize a number of the accomplishments we have achieved in the last year. But before I do that, I want to take a moment to recognize some very special guests who joined us here today. This is the 30th anniversary of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. It is the largest environmental group in the country. I don't think there is anyone in this area who isn't familiar with the bumper sticker, the literature, the educational tours, how they work with our children to educate them about this most beautiful place we call home. And so I would like to ask all of the trustees who are here -- we had lunch with them today -- Tom Stoner as well as President Will Baker, and the other members of the Board -- to please stand so we can thank you for holding our feet to the fire, for reminding us that all that is fragile depends on those who endure, for making sure that we do our job to protect this resource. If Will and others could please stand to be recognized.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize my colleagues at the Environmental Protection Agency, Bob Perciasepe, Mike McCabe, Bill Matuszeski, and all of them who have spent many, many days and nights, many months, many years, working to make the Chesapeake Bay Program the huge success that it is. If they might stand and be thanked.

Please see the [Agenda](#) for other items.



Chesapeake Bay Program

PROCEEDINGS

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 1997 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting

Please see the [Agenda](#) for other items.

Citizens' Presentation of the *Declaration for Our Rivers* to the Executive Council
Executive Council Chair Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Fran Flanigan, Executive Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay **CAROL**

BROWNER: This effort doesn't happen because the states and the federal government work together, it happens because each and every one of you work to make this a great success. And we want to honor some of you who are here with us today for your commitment and for your leadership.

In keeping with the theme of watershed initiatives, I'd like to mention a grassroots effort that came out of a conference for watershed associations and groups that we sponsored this summer. It's called the Declaration for our Rivers of the Chesapeake, and it is has been endorsed by many of the leading organizations here today. And if I might just briefly call Fran Flanigan, Executive Director of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to the podium, so that she might present this declaration to the Council.

FRAN FLANIGAN: We know you all are dying to get out of here, so we'll make this very quick. Thank you, Administrator Browner. I want to introduce three people who have come with me; Leslie Bowie from the Piankatank Watershed Association; Patrick Fasano from the Octoraro Watershed Association; and Charles Conklin from the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy. These three people represent three of the many, many organizations who are here in spirit -- actually some of them I think are still in the audience. And we are bringing a message to the Executive Council this afternoon -- I think we're going to have to hire some carrier pigeons to deliver a few of the copies, but we'll make sure they all get where they belong. We're here to present this [Declaration for our Rivers](#) that Carol mentioned. This is a statement from a very important part of the Bay community -- the many organizations whose members are the river keepers of our Bay watershed. These groups met this past summer as you heard, and as an outcome of that meeting we have this Declaration. Most of you probably have not seen it, but there are copies someplace out in the lobby area, and if you don't find one on your way out of here today, please call any of the Alliance offices, and

we will make sure you get it. I'd like for you very much to see it.

The Declaration recommitments these river keeper organizations to being the eyes, the ears, the hands, and the hearts of river protection and restoration. We're very pleased that you are here today recommitting yourselves to restoration and protection goals. There is a lot of work left to do, and this work requires, not only the help of these grassroots organizations, but your proactive leadership. These river organizations want to work with you.

We're especially excited about the Community Watershed Initiative that Delegate Murphy spoke about, and that you all have signed here today. We think that's going to assist these organizations in the work that they have before them. We look forward to working with you, and with all of our elected officials as we move forward on the large work of protecting and restoring the Bay. Thanks very much.

CAROL BROWNER: Thank you Fran, and all of your organization and members for what you are doing.

Please see the [Agenda](#) for other items.



Chesapeake Bay Program

PROCEEDINGS

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 1997 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting

Please see the [Agenda](#) for other items.

Executive Council Awards Presentation - *Businesses for the Bay Mentor of the Year Award*

Executive Council Chair Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The business community here in the Bay region is also a very important part of this effort, and they have already stepped up to the plate, and are leading the way nationally in the voluntary reduction of toxics. I am pleased to announce that a key toxic reduction goal, a goal that was set by the Bay Program that was adopted, has actually now been achieved several years ahead of schedule.

We have documented a 66 percent reduction in reported emissions and releases of toxics under the [Toxics Release Inventory](#) from the years 1988 through 1995. This exceeds the goal, which was 65 percent by the year 2000. We got to a 66 percent reduction in the year 1995.

At this point I want to recognize the contributions of all of those in the business community, Businesses for the Bay is part of the Chesapeake Bay Program's voluntary pollution prevention efforts developed to help stem the flow of toxics into the Bay. We have already signed up over 75 businesses to specific pollution prevention commitments. We look forward to signing up many more. But we'd like to take a moment here this afternoon to honor someone who has helped to make the Businesses for the Bay program such a success. Today we issue our first [Businesses for the Bay Mentor of the Year Award](#) to Steven M. Farkas of Baltimore Gas & Electric. If he is here, we would ask him to please join us. Steven -- let me just explain -- has made invaluable contributions through Businesses for the Bay. He's been very active in encouraging other businesses to participate in the program. He's volunteered his valuable advice and technical support, and on behalf of the Executive Council, we thank you and congratulate you for all that you have done.

Please see the [Agenda](#) for other items.



Chesapeake Bay Program

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CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM 1997 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting

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Closing Remarks

Executive Council Chair Carol M. Browner, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In closing, let me just share with you a few of the other successes of this last year. These are contributions, these are successes that were made possible because all of the states, the city, 20 federal agencies, partners, you, advisory committees, and others worked together to make a difference.

This year we saw the completion of a crucial interstate fisheries management plan, which for the first time included specific habitat provisions. [The Blue Crab Management Plan](#) is an extraordinary action aimed at trying to avert a decline of the species, obviously vital to the regional economy. This was the result of exceptional cooperation and partnership among the states, the Bay Commission, and other stakeholders.

Last year we put into effect a comprehensive [Local Government Participation Action Plan](#). The [Chesapeake Bay Partner Communities program](#) was part of that plan, and it is already getting national attention. We have awarded the first set of 26 community Bay Partner designations to local governments throughout the Bay watershed. We want to congratulate each and every one of those communities. They're already doing excellent work to protect the Bay, local streams and rivers. And today we will issue the next round of invitations to communities throughout the watershed to join in the Bay Partner Community program.

And finally, this summer I -- well, actually it wasn't the summer. It was supposed to be the beginning of summer; it was a freezing day however. I had the opportunity to do something which others of you may have done, and that is to join local officials in Southern Maryland, led by [Bernie Fowler](#), who is the former State Senator and Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

We do a very basic water quality test. If you're not familiar with it, I'll explain. You join

hands -- it was about 40 degrees -- and you walk into the water, and you stop when you can no longer see your feet. We waded into the Patuxent River, and we kept going, and when we couldn't see our sneakers, we stopped and a measurement was taken. And I'm very happy to report that this year it was the deepest ever -- 44-1/2 inches.

Now you should understand, I was told when I agreed to do this, oh, don't worry, it will come up a little bit above your knee. Well it came up to my chest in freezing cold water. But it's an important test, and we applaud Bernie for what he does each and every year in calling attention to this issue. But it's not just something he does in jest, it is part of recognizing the advances, and I think most particularly the fact that we could see so far this year is because of a technology called biological nutrient removal, BNR.

This is a technology that has been in use at all eight of the waste water treatment plants on the Patuxent River, and it is now literally paying bid dividends. BNR is now operating at 33 facilities in the Bay watershed, and we have completed evaluation for another 50 additional sites. What our feasibility studies have done is provided tremendous new information on low cost modifications to plants, which not only achieve the desired nutrient reductions, but also derive benefits to the operators in terms of real dollars savings.

There's also been a great deal of progress on fish passage over the past two years, and I was joking with Governor Allen before. But this is really a very serious issue. There are now 196 miles of potential fish spawning habitat reopened. This year because of the work of all of the parties here, we opened the [Holtwood and Safe Harbor Fish Lifts on the Susquehanna](#). We started construction on the Boshers Dam passageway on the James River, and as I mentioned earlier, for the first time since 1803 you will be able to fish. It will be the last dam in Richmond that has obstructed spawning, and it will finally be removed. A total of 330 stream miles have now been opened to migratory fish since 1989.

Thirteen new [oyster reefs](#) -- were constructed and put in place in 1996 with another seven put in place during 1997. And finally, our riparian forest buffer goal, an initiative that we adopted last year, is spurring activity throughout the area. Since last year 73 miles of riparian forest buffers have been planted.

That's just a brief snapshot of a lot of very good things that are happening. There's a tribute to the hard work that all of you bring to this effort, and I join with my colleagues on the Executive Council in thanking each and every one of you for what you are doing to make this place where we live a more beautiful place, to protect our health, to protect our resources.

I thank you for the opportunity to have served as chair, and Governor Glendening, I now get to present you with the gavel. Now how many of you know the story of the gavel? See, if all of you raise your hand, I won't tell it.

I was told this is part of the right of passage. There's a gavel, and it has been used at every meeting of the Executive Council since 1984. It is made of three woods from around the Bay. The handle is Virginia red cedar, the head is Maryland peachwood, and they are bound together -- and here and there -- by a wedge of American holly. Now, you can understand that there was a state missing in this gavel, so last year Governor Ridge gave us a natural

stone striker plate, inlaid with a keystone in Pennsylvania hardwood. So we are all represented in this gavel and this striker. And it is my great honor to pass this to Governor Glendening.

Thank you all. This concludes this year's meeting.

Please see the [Agenda](#) for other items.