

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

July 30, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition  
and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6000

The Honorable Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
House Agriculture Committee  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition  
and Forestry  
328A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-6000

The Honorable Collin Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Agriculture Committee  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Roberts and Conaway, and Ranking Members Stabenow and Peterson:

As the Conference Committee reviews and considers the final version of the 2018 Farm Bill, we urge you to include the provisions from the Senate's version of the bill regarding the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).


The RCPP provisions in the Senate farm bill contain many provisions from legislation that we introduced, the Chesapeake Bay Farm Bill Enhancements Act. The Senate-passed language would double the amount of mandatory funding for RCPP, bolster critical conservation areas, boost technical assistance to provide more opportunities for effective conservation efforts, and help farmers implement best practices to reduce the need for excess fertilizers that run off into the Chesapeake Bay. These restoration efforts are key to improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay, and a healthy Bay is vital to a strong local economy. Furthermore, RCPP benefits conservation efforts on water quality, drought, and wildlife habitat to protect agricultural lands and wetlands across the country.


As you continue to work on the final draft of the Farm Bill, we urge you to include the Senate-passed language on the RCPP.


Thank you for your attention to and consideration of this important request. This investment will help ensure that the Chesapeake Bay economy continues to thrive and we can enjoy this treasure for generations to come.


Sincerely,


  
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate

  
Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senate

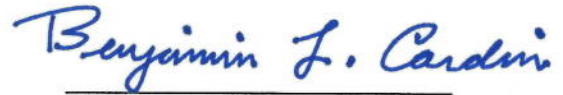
  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senate

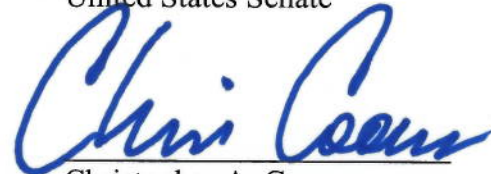
  
Joe Manchin, II  
United States Senate

  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senate

  
Steny H. Hoyer  
Member of Congress


  
Dutch Ruppersberger  
Member of Congress

  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senate

  
Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senate

  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senate

  
Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senate

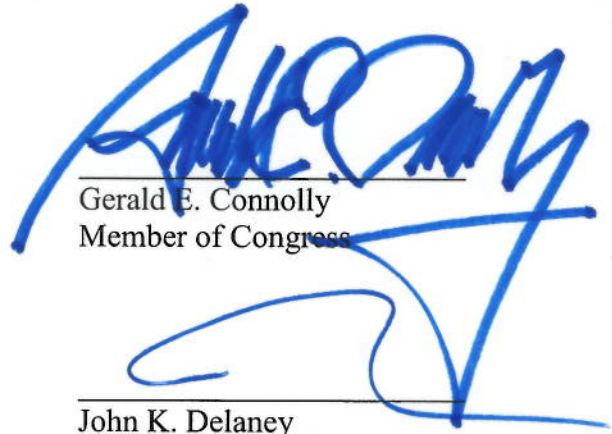
  
Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

  
Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress

  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress



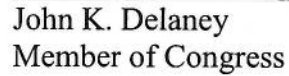
Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress



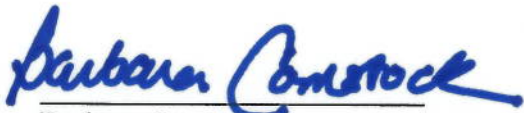
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Matthew A. Cartwright  
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Eleanor H. Norton  
Member of Congress