



CBF OPPOSES LEGISLATION THAT WILL DERAIL STORMWATER POLLUTION REDUCTIONS

STORMWATER IN VIRGINIA AND THE BAY

- Stormwater is the source of 16% of the pollution to the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia and is the only source of pollution to the Bay that is increasing.
- Stormwater is rain or snowmelt that runs off rooftops, parking lots, and other developed lands to waterways where it introduces pollution, damages property, and devastates aquatic life and fisheries.
- Stormwater is not sent to wastewater treatment plants and must be managed on land before reaching waterways.

DO NOT ROLL BACK NEW STORMWATER REGULATIONS

- New stormwater management regulations approved by the Commonwealth on December 9, 2009 represent a significant step forward in controlling polluted runoff. They will help allow future development to continue without impacting water quality.
- Several pieces of legislation have already been introduced that attempt to rollback these regulations.
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation will **oppose** any legislation that weakens the new regulations.

THE NEW REGULATIONS

- Virginia's existing 20-year old stormwater regulations are outdated and have not prevented stormwater pollution as Virginia has continued to grow.
- The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) engaged in an unprecedented level of scientific investigation and public input over the last four years to develop a set of pragmatic regulations that are based on widely accepted stormwater science.
- They include discharge limits on phosphorus and water volume, encourage the use of best management practices that mimic nature, and authorize localities to collect fees to fully cover their costs to implement the regulations.
- DCR significantly revised the regulations to address concerns that the original proposal would have increased costs, encouraged sprawl, or unfairly changed rules for existing projects.
- Claims that the new regulations will significantly increase compliance costs on all projects, halt development, cause job loss, or slow recovery of the economy are unfounded.
- Remember that stormwater is also an economic problem. Increases in stormwater pollution are offsetting reductions achieved by wastewater treatment plants and agriculture—reductions paid for with over \$1 billion in state and local funds. Further, for years the costs of poorly managed stormwater have been passed on to others—in the form of higher local utility fees and economic ruin in communities that rely upon clean water for their way of life.

For more information or questions, contact:

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