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Senate of Pennsylvania

October 6, 2014

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Ed Schafer
Chairman, Coalition for an Affordable Bay Solution
4426 Carrie Rose Lane
Fargo, ND 58104

Dominic Bassani
Bion PA 1, LLC
P.O. Box 323
Old Bethpage, NY 11804

Re: SB 994 – Procurement of Verified Nutrient Credits

Dear Messrs. Schafer and Bassani:

As you are aware, SB 994 will not be running in the Senate before the end of this Legislative Session. Accordingly, the Bill will have to be reintroduced in the Senate next year. The purpose of this letter is to advise you that I plan on reintroducing the bill and will work with the Senator Pro Tempore to again assign the bill into the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

I remain fully in support of the concepts set forth in SB 994 as a tool to remove nutrient pollution from our interior waterways that feed into the Chesapeake Bay. In January 2012, the LBFC issued a report that estimated the cost of compliance with our nutrient reduction mandates could reach \$1.8 billion dollars per year by 2025. The LBFC further found that by competitively bidding for verified nutrient credits, the Commonwealth could spur investment from the private sector in technology implementation and engage agriculture in reducing such compliance cost by an astounding 80%. SB 994 was intended to implement the LBFC's findings and deserves further conversation.

Recently, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and PennAG and last year, National Milk Producers Federation advised my office in writing that they supported SB 994. The message from these major agricultural organizations is clear – agriculture is willing to work with the private sector on innovative treatment options for animal waste in order reduce nutrients to the Bay and grow agriculture in Pennsylvania. As the Chairman of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, I am committed to seeing the tools identified in SB 994 are enacted so that agriculture can prosper in Pennsylvania.

I look forward to working with you in the next legislative session and appreciate your efforts to date on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elder Vogel Jr." in a cursive style.

Senator Elder Vogel