

Contact: David Culver
610-254-7426
dculver@btcmarketing.com

Chesapeake Restoration Financing Strategy Report Calls for Efficient, Effective Bay Pollution Solution

SB 724 would replace existing failed system with competitive bidding program, saving Pa. taxpayers \$1.5 billion annually

MANHEIM, Pa. – (June 23, 2015) – On June 9th, [Coalition for an Affordable Bay Solution](#) (CABS) issued a press release that called for the end to the government monopoly that is currently addressing the Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction mandates. CABS cited in its release the 2013 Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) study which determined that replacing the government's existing, artificial approach of sector allocation with a transparent competitive bidding program for verified nutrient reductions from all sources could reduce Bay compliance costs by up to 80% or \$1.5 billion annually by 2025.

Recently, the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland issued its [Chesapeake Restoration Financing Strategy Final Report](#) which came to the same conclusions as the LBFC study – but in even more blunt terms. The study concluded that, “It is essential that financing and funding decisions be made based on efficiency and effectiveness of projects rather than political outcomes and motivations.” That recommendation is at the heart of the fight over Senate Bill 724. The legislation proposed by State Senator Elder Vogel attempts to begin the process of implementing the LBFC study and returning to Pa. taxpayers the projected \$1.5 billion in annual savings while restoring the Bay and much of the Commonwealth's interior freshwater resources.

The existing approach is a government mandated system of high-cost public infrastructure solutions for a private sector problem. Government needs to provide the tools that will let the ingenuity of the private sector solve the problem. The continued refusal of government to abandon this top down approach and adopt this basic reform will only delay the inevitable and make things worse. This existing policy approach has failed for 20 years and will continue to fail unless the proposed reforms are adopted.

As previously stated, Governor Wolf ran as a problem solver and the existing and growing Bay default is a problem. Fortunately, addressing our Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction mandates is a problem that does not require more money – but less. It requires the political will to do what is right. The LBFC study was right in 2013 and its conclusions are needed even more today. The Maryland study reinforces the LBFC conclusions. How many independent bi-partisan studies will it take before the administration takes action? We again ask the administration to join with Senator Vogel and others in the fight to implement this bipartisan solution that will reduce taxpayer costs while repairing the environment.

In the end, it is taxpayers that are unfairly bearing the brunt of the current, monopoly approach to Bay restoration.

For more information on the Coalition for an Affordable Bay Solution, please visit AffordableBaySolutions.org.

#