

Fall 2019

Hourglass Quarterly



DRIVERLESS CARS

TRAUMA AFFECTS LEARNING

MARYLAND IS CONCERNED

FIRST FRIDAY FORUMS

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Governor Wolf Gets An Ear-Full

Maryland's Governor Larry Hogan recently wrote to Pennsylvania's Governor Tom Wolf and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency criticizing Pennsylvania's final Watershed Implementation Plan, which was recently released. -- Maryland has "alarming concerns" about neighboring Pennsylvania's lack of progress in meeting clean water goals and how it will affect the Chesapeake Bay.



Hogan, who chairs the Chesapeake Executive Council, which includes the governors of the six states in the watershed of the nation's largest estuary, stated "The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's final WIP falls far short of the federally established nitrogen goal by only achieving 73% of the required reduction," Hogan wrote. And "Pennsylvania's plan includes a troubling funding gap of over \$300 million annually."

J.J. Abbott, a spokesman for Gov. Wolf, said Pennsylvania has made great strides in improving local water quality by investing in best practices and working with conservation and agriculture sectors. The state is addressing an area that spans over 15,000 miles of impaired streams, 33,000 farms, and 350 municipalities. He also said "Over 1,000 Pennsylvanians — farmers, foresters, academics, local municipal

and community leaders, environmental advocates, and state government agencies — contributed their expertise to our plan." Abbott noted that Wolf proposed farm legislation approved by lawmakers this year includes \$23 million for new conservation funding, prioritizing counties in the bay's watershed --

"Pennsylvania is committed to having projects and practices in place by 2025 to attain our goals and meet our requirements in full."

The watershed covers 65,000 square miles and includes Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Hogan noted that for decades the nation has committed to restoring the bay through executive orders, congressional actions, and policies. A 2014 agreement between states in the watershed and federal agencies reaffirmed support for a regional approach and partnership, including a commitment to clean water goals by 2025. He wrote, "We urgently need a more complete and comprehensive commitment from Pennsylvania, as well as a clear and robust demonstration from the Environmental Protection Agency that appropriate oversight powers will be used to maintain our momentum." Hogan went on to say, "Restoration requires full federal and state engagement and investment, with success dependent on each and every jurisdiction." "After three decades of federal, state, and local initiatives and investments in Chesapeake Bay, now is not the time to waiver."

Edited from an Associated Press August 29, 2019 article by Brian Witte

