

Important Information for Participation

Online Public Comments

Final public comment period began on June 22, 2009 – 60 day comment period
Public comment period closes August 21, 2009

Website address for leaving public comments:

<http://townhall.virginia.gov/L/comments.cfm?stageid=5070>

Obama's Executive Order – Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration

http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Executive-Order-Chesapeake-Bay-Protection-and-Restoration/

Public Hearing – July 14, 2009 7pm

Virginia General Assembly Building
910 Capitol Street, Senate Room B
Richmond, Virginia 23219

PLEASE LEAVE A WRITTEN RECORD OF YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS REGULATION

Bullet Points of Problems with Regulations

- Current regulations for development already working, agricultural compliance is where the problem is.
- Regulations will mandate sprawl – too expensive to build higher density.
- Effect of regulations is the opposite of what is environmentally good for the Bay.
- ★ Economic Impact Analysis (by VT) doesn't show the program is feasible, only that there are a lot of costs that are not predictable.
- Impossible to achieve pollutant removals economically, even in downtown redevelopments.
- On-size-fits-all approach to pollutants is terrible for economy – treats rural counties like Buckingham County the same as urban Fairfax County.
- HB 3202 Mandates Urban Development Areas – these are impossible to build with new regulations
- Homebuilders have a great solution for cleaning up the Bay while not disabling Virginia's economy, using fees collected from development and redevelopment to help accomplish agricultural BMPs where the biggest pollution is coming from.
- RECOMMENDATION – Do not enact Part II of the regulations – the technical criteria portion, until and unless it can be significantly modified to protect the state's economic future while protecting the Bay.

- ★ Current regulations work if more effort is placed on enforcement of what is on the books.

Make sure to indicate that you want a clean Bay just as much as anyone else does, but that these regs put Virginia in an economic hole that will be very difficult to dig out of.