



**HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2017-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
SUPPORTING CONTINUED FULL FUNDING OF THE
CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), is comprised of elected officials and chief administrative officers of the 17 local governments in the Hampton Roads region, and provides a forum for action on items of regional concern; and

WHEREAS, the Hampton Roads region is strategically located on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, which provide a wide variety of economic and environmental benefits, employment opportunities, recreational opportunities and ecological, cultural and historic resources which are essential to our region's quality of life, environmental and economic wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, local governments and wastewater utilities in the Hampton Roads region have invested millions of dollars and implemented policies and programs to restore local water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, there is a clear and direct federal interest in the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries given that the Bay is the nation's largest estuary, has a tremendous annual economic impact, and is home to approximately 18 million people; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Office serves a unique, critical role in coordinating the Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts of the 20 federal agencies, six states, the District of Columbia, thousands of cities, counties and towns, numerous universities, and other organizations; and provides essential technical resources via modeling and monitoring to ensure accountability, effectiveness and equity among the Bay states; and

WHEREAS, reductions in critical funding for the CBP or that of the other associated federal agencies, at this critical point in the Bay's progress, would risk slowing or reversing the progress and investments made to-date by the Bay states, local governments and water utilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION THAT:

- 1) The board recognizes the value of the Chesapeake Bay to our region's economy and quality of life and supports continued full funding for the Chesapeake Bay Program.
- 2) The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee, to communicate the HRPDC's position to the necessary entities and individuals at the local, state and federal level.

Ella Ward
Chair

Robert Crum
Executive Director/Secretary