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*Saving a National Treasure*

January 13, 2009

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Senate of Virginia  
General Assembly Building, Room 321  
P.O. Box 396  
Richmond, VA 23218

Delegate Kenneth R. Plum  
Virginia House of Delegates  
General Assembly Building, Room 401  
P.O. Box 406  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator Howell and Delegate Plum:

Thank you for your letter of January 8th regarding the Reston Association's community stream restoration project.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Virginia Watershed Restoration Scientist reviewed the stream restoration work done to date on December 16, 2008 and reviewed the plans proposed for continued restoration of Snakeden Branch and the Glade section. CBF found this restoration project to be of the highest standard in terms of best management practices and utilizing the latest scientific and engineering principles for stream restoration.

Development of the Reston community over a number of decades has resulted in large areas of impervious surface, changes in runoff patterns, and unfortunately, declining stream health. Restoration of streams is an important component of the urban retrofits Virginia must pursue to reduce pollution and improve local and downstream water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, flood control, and the overall health of the Commonwealth's waters.

Stream restoration activities often require considerable work within the waterway and floodplain. When working in these areas, it is important to not only ensure the construction activities address erosion and sedimentation controls but also minimize, as much as possible, clearing of vegetation and earthwork. Our review of the restoration work to date in December and plans for future restoration indicate that the Reston Association's contractor, Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI), has paid significant and close attention to these critical parameters of stream restoration. Many of WSSI's methodologies and techniques

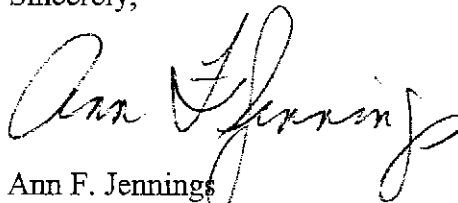
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being utilized on this project are state of the art and are recognized by other stream restoration professionals as the best standards for urban stream restoration.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our comments regarding the Reston Association's stream restoration project. Restoration projects of this high quality must be pursued throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in order to restore the Bay's living resources. Once completed, this project will serve as an excellent example for other localities to follow and will lead to many long-term environmental and public benefits.

Please feel free to contact me at (804) 780-1392 if CBF can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann F. Jennings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "J".

Ann F. Jennings  
Virginia Executive Director