



CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

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May 11, 2016

Dr. Brian Benham, Vice-Chair
Science and Technical Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 28
Edgewater, MD 21037

Re: STAC Microbeads/Microplastics Review

Dear Dr. Benham:

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC), I extend our appreciation for the work of the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and the technical review panel responding to our request for scientific guidance on microbead contamination in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The “Technical Review of Microbeads/Microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay” provides a compelling overview of the potential impact of microplastics, particularly as a pathway for harmful contaminants.

Guidance provided by the technical review panel on the limitations of the recent federal legislation and the critical need for technical clarity and accuracy in terms found in state or federal legislation is a welcome addition to their review. Clearly, existing state law within the Chesapeake Bay watershed as well as recent federal legislation does not fully address the nature and scope of the environmental impact of microplastics. We welcome STAC’s continued work to develop an acceptable definition of *biodegradable* and further advice regarding actions that should be taken to further curtail microplastic pollution to our waterways.

We support your observation that the microbeads/microplastics technical review highlights the significant benefit of STAC and CBC’s collaboration. CBC places a priority on legislative action based upon sound science and STAC’s advice can insure that our actions are founded in the most reliable understanding of the state of the science. We look forward to a continued and strengthened partnership with STAC.

Sincerely,

Thomas McLain Middleton, Chair
Chesapeake Bay Commission

cc: Ann Swanson, Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Dr. Lisa Wainger, Chair, Science and Technical Advisory Committee