



February 9, 2026

Dr. William C. Dennison  
Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)  
Chesapeake Research Consortium  
645 Contees Wharf Road  
Edgewater, MD 21037

Re: Principals' Staff Committee Response to the STAC Recommendations

Dear Chairperson Dennison,

On behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) and as Chair of the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC), I want to thank you and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) for your thoughtful recommendations (letter dated November 12, 2025). The PSC greatly appreciates the opportunity to respond to your letter and stands ready to assist STAC in fulfilling its annual priorities. In addition, I would like to express my gratitude for STAC's active engagement, and the advice offered during the private EC session at their December 2, 2025 annual meeting.

The PSC is committed to continuing its support of the Advisory Committees, now and into the future. Over the past year, the CBP partnership has set aside intentional time in meeting agendas to amplify STAC's expert advice, assist with the Phase 7 suite of partnership models, and host workshops on timely issues, while supporting the revisions process to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Since the start of the CBP partnership, STAC has consistently provided sound scientific and technical guidance for the benefit of the Chesapeake Bay watershed's protection and restoration. We continue to rely on STAC's strong, independent voice and appreciate its role as a liaison between the scientific community and the CBP. STAC's commitment to top-tier science and its application to environmental management is deeply valued by both EPA and the larger partnership.

Thank you for your dedication to restoring the Chesapeake Bay watershed and your ongoing participation as we implement the revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement now and into the future. STAC's continued contributions make our partnership stronger and more successful.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shirley  
Chair, Principals' Staff Committee  
Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection