

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape during the golden hour. The scene is dominated by a mix of green and brown fields, interspersed with dense forests of trees showing autumn colors. In the foreground, a large, dark, shadowed area suggests a deep ravine or a large field. The middle ground shows several farmsteads with white buildings and barns. The background features a wide expanse of water, likely a bay or a large river, under a hazy, sunlit sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

# Policy Landscapes in the Bay Watershed

**Maggie Woodward**  
**Chesapeake Bay Commission**  
**STAC Workshop**  
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*Photo: Chesapeake Bay Program*

# CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION



Tri-State Legislative Commission established by MD, VA, and PA law in the 1980s.

Seven Members from each state: 2 Senate, 3 House; 1 Cabinet-level; and 1 Citizen Member

- Translate Science Into Federal & State Policy
- Serve as a Legislative Voice within the Bay Program
- Coordinate Policy Interests with Congress



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

	Maryland	Pennsylvania	Virginia
Total Population (2025)	6.2 m	13.1 m	8.8 m
Pop in the Watershed	99%	30%	80%
Land in the Watershed	94%	50%	54%

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, GENERALLY

	Maryland	Pennsylvania	Virginia
How long is the legislative session?	90 days	2 years	45 days (odd years) 60 days (even years)
How many bills are introduced per session?	~3,000 (26% enacted)	~5,000 (4% enacted)	~2,000 (35% enacted)
How often are members elected?	Representatives and Senators have 4-year terms; all seats are on the same election schedule.	Representatives have 2-year terms; Senators have 4-year terms. Every 2 years, all House seats and half of the Senate seats are elected.	Representatives have 2-year terms; Senators have 4-year terms. Every 2 years, all House seats are elected. Every 4 years, all Senate seats are elected.



**CBC'S ROLE AND THE VALUE  
OF INTERSTATE DIALOGUE**

An aerial photograph showing a narrow river or stream winding through a vast, dense forest. The trees are a rich, vibrant green, and the water is a lighter, silty color. The perspective is from directly above, looking down at the river as it flows through the heart of the woods.

**Thank you.**