

Mr. Chairman, members of the Board my name is Robert Lazaro, I am the Mayor of the Town of Purcellville and I am here officially on behalf of the Town Council with respect to the proposed Chesapeake Bay Ordinance. It is with deep concern that I address you and want to express the Town's opposition to the draft ordinance.

It is the considered opinion of the Council the proposed ordinance is an incomplete work and onerous regulation. The regulation if enacted as written will not mobilize citizen support for environmental protection but will have a negative impact on the economy as a whole and especially the rural economy in our County.

Requirements to produce a Water Quality Impact Assessment without a framework for what it should contain and a citizen oversight board with membership credentials so vague that essentially anyone is eligible to serve on it, is a recipe for disaster in the making. Furthermore, with incomplete mapping in hand, this ordinance will be yet another unfunded mandate on our residents, businesses and those Towns which own property outside of their corporate boundaries. The ordinance also fails to recognize the importance of the Route 28 corridor to our County's long-term economic future.

One does not have to drive too far from Leesburg to hear the concerns of citizens with respect to the impact of the ordinance. I have had several Town officials from Fairfax County, where the ordinance impacts Town residents and businesses, tell me they have had citizens ask them why they are paying Town taxes on a certain portion of their property when the County government tells them they cannot use it due to the Chesapeake Bay ordinance.

Instead of imposing this regulatory scheme we would like to propose a fair, innovative and responsible approach that would have a more measurable impact on the health of the watershed and drinking water than this proposed ordinance.

1. Leesburg, Middleburg and Purcellville are all Tree City USA communities. We would recommend the County of Loudoun make a similar investment to provide trees to

citizens at no cost to plant on their property. Trees planted in key areas are a very effective means to protect the environmental quality of our watershed.

2. As the Town of Purcellville has done, we would recommend the County, in conjunction with Loudoun Water, coordinate educational seminars to assist residents and businesses owners on the proper maintenance and care of trees including the responsible use of fertilizers for lawns.
3. We would encourage the placement of educational markers about the importance of our storm water system. One young woman in our Town oversaw the installation of more than 700 of these markers in our Town as part of her Gold Award program for the Girl Scouts. Why can't Loudoun do the same?
4. Instead of discouraging, the County should encourage, as Purcellville has explored, innovative and measurable means to improve the quality of drinking water such as direct potable reuse with treatment.
5. The County needs to develop incentives for those farms that would voluntarily fence streams and ponds.

I have had the pleasure of serving with and/or working with several of you on the dais. We have stood together to work to enhance and protect the quality of life of this County we all love. The Purcellville Town Council suggests that this proposed ordinance will not serve our citizens, environment or economy well nor will it most effectively address the problem of water quality. We ask that you scrap it and undertake a more pragmatic approach.

Thank you.