



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

Bonnie Bick
Mattawoman Watershed Society

November 13, 2023

Dean Naujoks
Potomac Riverkeeper

Dear Ms. Bick and Mr. Naujoks:

Thank you for your correspondence to Governor Moore regarding environmental concerns about the Mattawoman Creek Watershed. As Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Administration.

The Moore-Miller Administration is committed to enhancing our State's long history of smart growth policies. In fact, when it comes to protecting and restoring our Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, we are just getting started. Maryland is a national leader on sustainable growth policy and incentive programs. Local zoning decisions are explicitly governed by the county, but there is much we can do in terms of enforcing the Clean Water Act, scrutinizing permits and conducting inspections of facilities in the watershed, and strengthening stormwater regulations.

You are probably aware of the designation of high-quality waters (known as Tier II waters) that serve as a disincentive to develop land in sensitive areas.¹ We have also begun an extensive process of updating stormwater management regulations that govern new and existing construction in Maryland. The new regulations will employ modern approaches to sustainability, safety and watershed protection.

I have shared your letter with our Water and Science Administration leadership team so they may engage directly with you. I know our fellow State agencies are eager partners in a campaign to revitalize smart growth through the education of local officials and citizens. Leadership by local stakeholders, organizing across jurisdictions like yourselves, will drive this movement. Please keep MDE informed of any efforts you develop along these lines and how we can play a constructive role.

¹ More information is available at: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/TMDL/WaterQualityStandards/Pages/Antidegradation_Policy.aspx.

Thank you again for your correspondence. If I may be of further assistance, please contact my Water and Science Administration leadership team at 410-537-3084 or Mr. Lee Currey, Director, by email at lee.currey@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Serena McIlwain".

Serena McIlwain,
Secretary

cc: Rebecca L. Flora, AICP, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning
Lee Currey, Director, Water and Science Administration