



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

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W. Taylor Murphy, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

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October 7, 2004

Dr. Lynton S. Land
P.O. Box 539
Ophelia, VA 22530

Dear Dr. Land:

I have reviewed your letter of September 15, 2004 in which you enclosed a copy of the comments that you forwarded to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as part of your participation on the Department's Technical Advisory Committee on Nutrient Management. First, let me state that your service on this Committee is appreciated as are your input and comments which you have provided, particularly as a concerned and educated citizen representative.

The Department attempted to gather input from all sectors that could be impacted by changes to the regulations. Since the Nutrient Management Regulations primarily affect agricultural interests and these interests and the potential impact of changes to the Nutrient Management Regulations vary among the agricultural sectors (i.e., crop and various types of animal production), it was necessary for the Department to solicit input from a wide sector of the agricultural community. The Department also included environmental groups on the Committee as well as representatives from academic institutions who could provide advice on water quality issues related to agriculture.

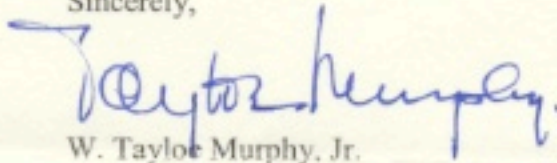
DCR is still developing the proposed regulations and I have yet to be briefed on their final proposed revisions to the regulations. However, I certainly share your concern for the needs for the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and the impact that nutrient sources have had on the decline in bay water quality. I fully expect that the Department will propose changes to the regulations, which will lead to an overall improvement in the manner in which nutrients are managed so as to better protect water quality and meet crop nutrient needs. I know that the DCR will consider your concerns and is exploring alternatives that address many of the issues you raise.

I will review the Department's proposed regulations while considering the issues that are raised in your comments and those received by other stakeholders and citizens so that we can craft the most effective and responsive regulations to meet our environmental objectives in the most useful manner.

Dr. Lynton S. Land
October 7, 2004
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Again, I appreciate your service to the Commonwealth and sharing your concerns on the proposed Nutrient Management Regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Taylor Murphy, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

W. Taylor Murphy, Jr.

Copy: Mr. Joseph H. Maroon
Mr. Jack Frye