

E&R 2012-01 Resolution to Maintain Virginia's Membership in and Funding for the ICPRB

1. Whereas, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) is an interstate compact agency created by individual statutes of its member jurisdictions (Commonwealths of Pennsylvania and Virginia, States of Maryland and West Virginia, and District of Columbia) approved by the U.S. Congress in 1940, to include participation of the Federal Government;
2. Whereas, this multijurisdictional compact has coordinated efforts to monitor water flow and flooding and protect the environmental quality of Potomac River, directly impacting over a third of Virginians who live in the Potomac basin;
3. Whereas, Governor McDonnell has eliminated funding and proposes to withdraw Virginia from the ICPRB;
4. Whereas, withdrawing from the ICPRB would not save money, but would cost Virginia funds that it now receives through the ICPRB from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other sources;
5. Whereas, the Potomac basin includes one third of Virginia's population, and so the ICPRB performs a regional function;
6. Whereas, Virginia, Fairfax County, and the Mount Vernon district benefit directly from activities performed by the ICPRB and by no other agency, including:
 - a. Sample collection and analyses to support development of TMDLs (total maximum daily load) to address impairments due to PCBs in the tidal Potomac, and due to bacteria in local streams, including Four Mile Run, Holmes Run, Cameron Run, and Hunting Creek;
 - b. Coordination of the American Shad Restoration Program, a cooperative, interstate program that has helped make the Potomac the only Chesapeake Bay tributary with a shad stock that has returned to health, while assisting Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in restoration efforts on the Rappahannock River;
 - c. Participation as a member of the Department of Environmental Quality James River Study Advisory group;
 - d. Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, including:
 - i. Development of indexes of biotic integrity for biological communities in tidal and non-tidal waters that allow comparisons among jurisdictions and facilitate better management and accountability of shared resources, and
 - ii. Management of water quality and living resources monitoring data sets collected and shared by multiple jurisdictions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed to provide quality assurance and support decision-making activities;
7. Whereas all these projects were performed with significant use of federal grants and ICPRB general funds, and in some cases the work was subcontracted to other Virginia entities, such as the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) requests Governor McDonnell and the General Assembly to restore funding to the ICPRB and to cancel the request for the legislature to withdraw from the ICPRB.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the MVCCA urges our local state legislators and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to join us in requesting that the Governor restore funding and cancel his request to withdraw from the ICPRB.