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October 12, 2011

Dr. David K. Paylor, Director  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 1105  
Richmond, VA 23218

Richmond, VA

Dear Dr. Paylor:

It has been brought to my attention that the Commonwealth of Virginia eliminated funding for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) for the 2011-2012 fiscal years. I urge the Commonwealth to reverse this decision.

The ICPRB serves all the Potomac River watershed states including about 5,600 square miles of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The ICPRB, celebrating 70 years of service, provides strong and even-handed management of the Potomac through cooperative and collaborative interaction with all basin states. The Potomac River serves as lifeblood for several northern Virginia counties as they obtain all or part of their drinking water supplies from the river.

The American Water Resources Association (AWRA) has long held the position that rivers should be managed on a watershed basis rather than on the basis of political boundaries. The ICPRB has for the many years proved the AWRA position to be correct through its efforts to protect, conserve, and enhance both the water and land resources of the basin. With the increasing population of the basin together with the climatic extremes that are increasingly impacting the basin, the ICPRB mission has even greater importance.

AWRA is a multidisciplinary water resources NGO whose members work on all aspects of water resources using a balanced, professional, multidisciplinary approach. Our motto is "Community, Conversation, Connections." Our national headquarters is located in the Potomac River Basin in Loudoun County, Virginia. We have, for the 12 years that our headquarters have been in Loudoun County, been witness to the excellent work and dedication of ICPRB. We would be dismayed to see this important work lost to Loudoun County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The first thing a visitor sees upon opening the ICPRB's WWW site is: 'Watersheds Cross Political Boundaries. That's Why We're Here'. Indeed - and that's why the Commonwealth's support is essential.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,



Michael E. Campana, Ph.D.  
President



**AWRA**

*Community, Conversation, Connections*