PATUXENT RIVER COMMISSION

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Martin O'Malley, ***Governor***
Councilman Michael Leszcz, *Chairman*
Councilwoman Mary Kay Sigaty, *Vice Chairman*

We, the Patuxent River Commission, envision a Patuxent River ecosystem as vital and productive in 2050 as it was in the 1950s. We therefore commit to be stewards and advocates for the Patuxent River and to lead and inspire actions to protect, enhance, and restore living resources and the natural, cultural, economic, and recreational values of the Patuxent River and its watershed.

July 21, 2014

Mr. Brian Clevenger
Maryland Department of the Environment
Water Management Administration
Sediment, Stormwater, and Dam Safety Program
1800 Washington Blvd., STE. 440
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708

RE: Comments on Tentative Determination to Issue Stormwater Permits for Howard and Charles County

Dear Mr. Clevenger:

In 2001, the Maryland legislature, seven counties and the City of Laurel adopted the Patuxent River Policy Plan, which includes goals to restore the water quality and living resources of Maryland's largest and longest river. The Maryland legislature established the Patuxent River Commission to "review the operation of units of State and local government that have responsibility for implementation of the Plan".

At its July 9, 2014 meeting, the Patuxent River Commission received a presentation from Jay Sakai, Director, Water Management Administration, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), regarding Maryland's NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit program and processes. In addition, the Commission discussed the benefits and implications of the draft MS4 permits for Howard and Charles County, and inquired about the concerns raised by several environmental organizations concerning Maryland's MS4 permit approach. Several of the Commissioners also shared their concerns regarding the adequacy of the permits to clean up the Patuxent River.

Based on the information provided at its July 9, 2014 meeting, the Patuxent River Commission strongly supports MDE's tentative determination to issue stormwater permits for Howard and Charles County but respectfully requests that MDE ensure that the concerns raised (see attached) by the environmental organizations are meaningfully addressed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Commission's staff, Jason Dubow or Daniel Rosen, at 410-767-4500.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Leszcz, Councilman
City of Laurel
Chair, Patuxent River Commission

The Honorable Mary Kay Sigaty
Howard County Council
Vice-Chair, Patuxent River Commission