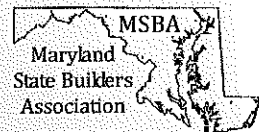


Homebuilders Support a Flexible-Maryland Watershed Implementation Plan-Balancing Clean Up with the Current Economy, Economic Development and Growth Policies

MSBA Supports-

- MDE's efforts to extend the timeframe for preparation and submittal of the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans;
- A meaningful stakeholder input process to draft the Phase II Plans;
- An increase to the Bay Restoration Fee to fully fund conversion of all WWTP plants; this move alone will allow Maryland to realize 70% of its overall nitrogen reduction goal;
- The imposition of a stormwater utility fee exclusively for use in retrofits;
- An enhanced residential lawn fertilizer management program; and
- Revisions to the Lawn Care Operator Fertilizer Standards.



The Phase I Plan-

- Treats agriculture and urban pollution as equal;
- Requires pollution reductions without a cost-effective assessment;
- Imposes retrofit requirements that are not equitable to local government; and
- Goes beyond EPA's set timeframe by 5 years and exceeds the required reduction threshold by 10%.

The Phase II Plan Must-

- Set allocation goals by utilizing the most cost-effective techniques possible (regardless of sector) and then develops a system to share the costs across sectors equitably;
- Create incentives for urban development and redevelopment;
- Establish a viable nutrient trading program with buy-in from the Agriculture Community;
- Implement a workable offset program for new pollution sources now;
- Accommodate Septic development as an option in rural areas;
- Recognize the limited watershed area of Western Maryland;
- Take into consideration the possible urban sector load reduction from land conversion; and
- Be fully funded through existing and new revenue sources.

