



University of Maryland  
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

## ***Quotes from partners in Chesapeake Bay and Watershed health***

### **U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, State of Maryland:**

“The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and the federal government must continue to be a strong partner to state, local, and nongovernmental efforts to preserve it for future generations. The health of the Bay continues to improve slightly over time, despite extreme weather, sea level rise, and warming temperatures that work against environmental equity and progress to reduce pollution and habitat loss. Moving forward, I am pleased that President Joe Biden’s American Jobs Plan proposes a national strategy for tackling the effects of climate change, which pose an existential threat to the Bay—our nation’s largest estuary.”

### **U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, State of Maryland:**

“Maryland’s success is directly linked to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. We must safeguard this natural treasure and the vibrant Bay economy. After years of fighting for increased federal resources to protect the Bay, I’m glad to see its health gradually improve and hold steady. This is the result of the tireless work and advocacy of Marylanders and organizations across our state. But we know there’s a lot more to do. I will continue working to provide vital funding and to hold all partner states accountable as we work together to reduce pollution, address environmental injustice, and meet our mutual goals of clean water in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025.”

### **U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes, State of Maryland, Co-Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force**

“Our close collaboration with partners at the federal, state, and local levels will continue to improve the long-term vitality of the Chesapeake Bay. I applaud the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science – and all of our advocates in Maryland and across the region – for their tireless efforts to monitor Bay health. Although we have lots of work ahead of us, I am confident that our shared commitments will help ensure that the Chesapeake Bay remains one of America’s great environmental treasures for generations to come.”

### **Secretary Ben Grumbles, Maryland Department of the Environment:**

“Chesapeake Bay health, wealth, and well-being are all connected and science-based measuring matters so we can continue to make lasting progress on clean water, climate resiliency, diversity, and justice.”

### **Tommy Wells, Director, Department of Energy and Environment, for the District of Columbia:**

"The District applauds the new social vulnerability, stewardship, and walkability indexes and the recognition that we must do more to address inequities affecting our most vulnerable communities, especially in the face of climate change. All residents deserve the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from healthy streams and rivers."

### **Matthew J. Strickler, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources and Chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council's Principals Staff Committee:**

“The UMCES report card illustrates continued progress but also makes clear that bold leadership and significant investment are needed to achieve the partnership’s commitment to a restored Chesapeake Bay. Governor Northam and the Chesapeake Executive Council have called on Congress to dedicate \$1 billion for the Bay, so that future generations will benefit from clean water and abundant living resources, and I hope we will see that level of investment.”

### **Wendy O’Sullivan, Superintendent of the National Park Service’s Chesapeake Bay Office**

“During the nation’s worst public health crisis in 100 years, people sought out and found comfort and joy in green spaces, like parks, beaches, historic landmarks, and local ball fields. There is no doubt that our parks and recreational spaces are more important than ever. Conserving and protecting lands and ensuring equitable public

access are key priorities for the overall health of the Chesapeake watershed and its communities. While the 2020 evaluation of the new stewardship index took place before the pandemic, it shows us that there is room to grow for stewardship behaviors. I look forward to seeing how future stewardship scores begin to improve as individuals, friends, and families continue to spend more time outdoors in parks, their yards and gardens and within their neighborhoods and local communities.”

**Bill Dennison, Vice President for Science Application, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science:**

“This report card would not have been possible without courage and resilience of Chesapeake Bay scientists and resource managers who risked so much and worked so hard to maintain our ability to keep our fingers on the pulse of Chesapeake Bay during the pandemic. The progress in developing meaningful social and environmental justice indicators was a major accomplishment as well.”

**Peter Goodwin, President, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science:**

“UMCES scientists continue to lead the way on assessing not just the environment, but also the social and economic factors that influence ecosystem health. This year’s report card provides new insights in our journey of restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Improvements in our environment go hand-in-hand with improvements in our communities. Improvements in our environment go hand-in-hand with improvements in our communities, particularly those that are traditionally disadvantaged.”