



August 10, 2011

By Electronic Mail

Jefferson Reynolds, Esq.
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Re: Legislative Proposal Related to ICPRB

Dear Jeff:

I am writing on behalf of Mission H₂O to comment on DEQ's legislative proposal to withdraw Virginia's participation as a member of the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin ("ICPRB"). Mission H₂O is a group of stakeholders with the common goal of ensuring a sustainable water supply for all water users in Virginia and a workable state water supply plan. Mission H₂O members include industrial and agricultural water users, water providers, and water professionals.

The ICPRB plays a critical role in water quality and water quantity issues in the Northern Virginia area of the state. The Potomac River is a valuable resource, both for drinking water and for economic development. It appears unwise – due to both the actual impact and the public perception impact – that Virginia voluntarily terminate its voice in the development of policies and guidance on the management of the Potomac River, in effect ceding management of this valuable resource to the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and the Federal Government.

Of even greater concern to Mission H₂O members is the impact this decision could have on Virginia's ongoing water supply planning process. Virginia is in the process of developing a statewide water supply plan. The planning process recognizes the importance of and encourages regional water supply planning. The ICPRB is the model for other river basins of how cooperative allocation can be achieved to optimize an available resource. The cooperative agreements developed for the Potomac River would not exist but for the guidance



and mediation provided by the ICPRB. Virginia's withdrawal from the ICPRB appears to contradict and undermine the water supply planning process and sets a dangerous precedent for the management of other water resources in the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wortzel
Andrea W. Wortzel

cc: David Paylor
Angela Jenkins
Mission H₂O Members