



CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST TO RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CLEAN WATER JOBS TRAINING INITIATIVE

New workforce development initiative will train workers in emerging “green jobs” sector.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(ANNAPOLIS, MD, December 15, 2009) – As part of the federal spending package approved on Sunday by the Senate and last week by the House of Representatives, the Chesapeake Bay Trust was awarded \$116,000 for a new Clean Water Jobs Training Initiative. The funds, which will come from the Department of Labor’s Employment Training Administration, were requested for the Trust by Senator Ben Cardin and Congressman Frank Kratovil.

“This is an exciting program because it will tackle two of Maryland’s most pressing needs: cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay and increasing employment opportunities,” said **Senator Cardin**, a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. “The Chesapeake Bay Trust’s new Clean Water Jobs Training Initiative will provide Maryland workers with the skills they will need to compete in the emerging green economy while also helping the restore the Bay.”

One the greatest challenges facing Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay is the need to reshape the “built environment” to become greener, more livable, and less a source of pollutants to local rivers, streams, and the Bay. Federal, state, and local jurisdictions have responded to this challenge in recent years with policy changes and spending plans that will create new opportunities for an emerging green workforce. For example, the federal Recovery Act included significant funds for “green infrastructure” projects,

several of which are supported by the Chesapeake Bay Trust, that both create jobs and help clean up the environment.

“The Chesapeake Bay Trust thanks Senator Cardin and Congressman Kratovil for securing funds to launch an innovative new green jobs program,” said **Allen Hance**, Executive Director of the Trust. “Over its 25-year history, the Trust has funded thousands of demonstration-scale water quality and habitat restoration projects in local communities throughout the Bay watershed. This work to rebuild our ‘green infrastructure’ is now moving into the mainstream and, with continued investment, will create significant new job opportunities across Maryland.”

The training initiative will focus on job opportunities related to community greening, stormwater management, and habitat restoration.

- Community Greening - Local governments throughout Maryland have been adopting new tree canopy goals, with many promising to double their canopy in the next decade. Meeting these goals require contractors and workers with skills in tree canopy surveying, site assessment, tree planting, and maintenance.
- Stormwater management - Over the past decade, optimum treatment of stormwater has moved away from large-scale “wet ponds” to installation of multiple, small-scale, “low-impact development” practices that treat stormwater at its source. The movement to these new practices translates into opportunities for small businesses and skilled and unskilled workers, particularly in the growing landscaping and landscape design industries.
- Habitat restoration - Preserving the Chesapeake Bay’s habitat is crucial to improving water quality and also to all the fish, crabs, oysters and other wildlife that call the Bay home. Habitat restoration projects need workers with a broad range of skills: from machine operation and conservation landscaping to aquaculture and marine construction.

“Building a new green infrastructure means that we can protect the beauty and utility of the bay for future generations and put people in our communities back to work in exciting new fields with endless possibilities for growth,” said **Rep. Frank Kratovil**. “Here in Maryland we understand how intertwined our economy is with the health of the Bay, and this is an example of a partnership that will benefit the stability of both for years to come.”

On Wednesday, December 16, the Chesapeake Bay Trust will be joined by EPA Region III Administrator Shawn Garvin, Maryland Department of Environment Secretary Shari Wilson and other federal, state, and local officials for a ground-breaking for seven "green infrastructure" projects in Maryland. The projects, funded by the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will control erosion, improve habitat, and create or preserve approximately 80 jobs in Maryland.

About the Chesapeake Bay Trust:

The Chesapeake Bay Trust is an independent, nonprofit, foundation. Funding provided by the Trust sparks on-the-ground change in communities throughout Maryland and works to cultivate a new generation of Bay stewards. Since its inception in 1985, the Trust has awarded more than \$30 million and engaged hundreds of thousands of Marylanders in projects that have a measurable impact on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Trust is supported by the sale of the Maryland *Treasure the Chesapeake* license plate, donations to the *Chesapeake Bay and Endangered Species Fund* on the Maryland State income tax form, donations from individuals and corporations, and partnerships with private foundations and federal and state agencies. Fully 90 percent of the Trust's expenditures are directed to its Chesapeake Bay restoration and education programs.

For more information on the Chesapeake Bay Trust, visit www.cbtrust.org.

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