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Date: January 26, 2021
To: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs
From: Holly Porter, Executive Director
Re: SB 119 – Clean Water Commerce Act of 2021 – Support with Amendments

Delmarva Chicken Association (formerly Delmarva Poultry Industry, Inc.), the 1,600-member trade association representing the meat-chicken growers, processing companies and allied business members on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and Delaware supports SB 119 with the sponsor amendments and asks for a favorable committee report.

SB 119 transfers funds from the Bay Restoration Fund to the Clean Water Commerce Fund and sets parameters on how those funds will be used in order to help meet Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Program Total Maximum Daily Loads.

Farmers have already made great strides in reducing nitrogen and phosphorous loads from the Chesapeake Bay and local waterways. Our farmers truly are the first environmentalists, and will continue to do all they can to protect water quality. However, they cannot do it alone, especially as some of the best management practices that benefit water quality have little or negative economic impact on the farm (replacing crops with trees). Farms can only remain as farms if they are economically sustainable. We also know that while farmers may be the largest private landowners, that all Maryland citizens have a responsibility for water quality, including those within urban and suburban areas.

We support SB 119 as it outlines that a minimum of 35% of the Clean Water Commerce Fund shall be used for projects on agricultural lands. But we also support SB 119 as it requires a minimum of 10% of the funds to be used on nonagricultural lands – emphasizing the need for more than agriculture to help with water quality.

With the bill sponsor amendments, we urge **a favorable** committee report on SB 119.

Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at porter@dcachicken.com or 302-222-4069 or Nick Manis, Manis Canning & Associates, 410-263-7882.