

February 14, 2022

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
Room 121 House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0653 The Conservation Finance Act

Dear Chair Barve, Chair McIntosh, and Members of the Committees:

Corvias has become aware of proposed changes to state policy that could stimulate more investments in and partnerships for clean water in Maryland through a comprehensive conservation finance proposal, and we support those changes. Great strides forward have been made, specifically in Prince George's County with the Clean Water Partnership Community-Based P3, bringing local jobs and economic stimulus to County residents via local clean water infrastructure improvements and reducing the impact on Chesapeake Bay. Over the last 20 years, Corvias has formed 32 partnerships with the Department of Defense, colleges and universities, and municipalities to solve their infrastructure and facilities challenges. Our partnerships are projected to generate over 10 billion in savings and returns to our public partners.

The proposed financial changes, specifically Pay for Success contracts for drinking water and clean water infrastructure, provide clear paths to flexible ways of funding the future of the programs, which bring environmental justice and social equity to the residents of Maryland. Allowing the Department of Natural Resources to use Pay for Success contracts with non-profit or for-profit organizations to achieve the goals of the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund will cement Maryland's place as a conservation leader. We commend the legislature for providing DNR, DOT and other state agencies authorization to use these contracts, as well as for local government to take advantage of them through intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreements.

Corvias is extremely proud to have been a part of the Maryland success story through our Clean Water Partnership with Prince George's County. Today, that investment exceeds \$300M in water infrastructure improvements while generating over \$655M in documented economic impact. Our initial \$100M large scale pilot project has led to significant cost savings and local contractor growth through a focus on mentorship and efficiencies of scale. The proposed legislative changes would expand the State of Maryland's ability to apply what has worked, improve the procurement process by bringing the State's purchasing power to local cities or counties, and encourage additional private financing or public-private financing partnerships. Conservation investing continues to grow, and public policy through the refinement of the CFA is an important step to continued clean water benefits.

Sincerely,



Shawn Kerachsky  
Corvias Infrastructure Solutions (CIS)  
Managing Director  
[www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com](http://www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com)