

November 11, 2020

Mr. Ben Grumbles  
Secretary of the Environment  
State of Maryland

Re: Proposed Changes to the Comprehensive Conservation Finance Act

Dear Secretary Grumbles:

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 equity to the residents of Maryland. Reauthorization of the Clean Water Commerce Act, legislation that placed Maryland at the forefront of conservation in the nation, will positively restructure how the program can contract to purchase water-quality related environmental outcomes. The process also provides a sense of stability for outside private investors. In addition, the proposed changes are more inclusive to attract the agricultural industry, who can participate for the first time, and further strengthen regional water quality outcomes.

Corvias has been a part of the Maryland success story through our Clean Water Partnership with Prince George's County, that today exceeds \$300M in water infrastructure investments. 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 CCFA is an important step to continued clean water benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Agid".

Sean Agid  
Corvias, LLC  
Partnership Development  
[www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com](http://www.thecleanwaterpartnership.com)