



November 19, 2018

The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young  
Office of the President  
Baltimore City Council  
100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 400  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**RE: Council Bill 18-0111R - Informational Hearing - Baltimore Metropolitan Drinking Supply**

Dear Mr. President and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council ("BMC"), I write in response to the above-referenced Council Bill 18-0111R ("the Bill").

The Bill calls for BMC and various City agencies to comment on a number of factors relating to the reservoirs that provide water to the Baltimore metropolitan drinking supply, including the protection of the reservoir watersheds.

Since 1979, the City of Baltimore and counties in the Baltimore region have worked together with the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District, Carroll Soil Conservation District, and the Maryland Departments of Agriculture and the Environment, to protect the Baltimore region's three reservoirs through a Reservoir Watershed Protection Agreement.

Under this voluntary agreement - last updated in 2005 - two committees exist, which work to protect the watersheds. The first is the Reservoir Watershed Protection Committee ("RWPC"), composed of agency leadership from the signatory organizations, which provides program oversight and guidance. The second is the Reservoir Technical Group ("RTG"), composed of water quality staff from the signatory organizations. The latter meets to address emerging issues, coordinate program work, review technical work and prepare reports. BMC provides staff support to these committees.

The 2005 Agreement established a series of Action Strategies to be carried out by the signatories. Over the last 13 years, the members of the RTG and RWPC have worked to advance these strategies. In June of this year, the RTG memorialized its progress on the



Action Strategies in the attached report. The efforts undertaken by each of the signatories is detailed in the report.

In summary, for nearly four decades, the jurisdictions in the greater Baltimore region have worked cooperatively to protect the reservoir watersheds. We remain confident in the efficacy of the 2005 Reservoir Watershed Protection Agreement and in the efforts of its signatories to carry out the aims outlined in this document.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Brian R. Shepter, Director of External Relations at [bshepter@baltometro.org](mailto:bshepter@baltometro.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Kelly".

Michael B. Kelly  
Executive Director

cc: Ms. Natawna B. Austin, Executive Secretary