



TO: Members of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
FROM: Melissa Gates, Government Relations Associate
DATE: 3/22/2021
RE: **CCAP Supports Senate Bill 251 – Fertilizer Application**

On behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, representing all 67 counties, I write to share our support for Senate Bill 251, which would amend the Pennsylvania Fertilizer Act to establish nutrient standards and best practices for fertilizer application in the commonwealth.

Counties have had an active role in the Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase 3 WIP), primarily through the development of the countywide goals, the toolboxes to be used for planning to meet those goals, and throughout the pilot process. The state has consistently demonstrated their commitment to building relationships and working collaboratively among agencies and levels of government, including seeking local input and feedback on proposals to accomplish WIP goals.

Counties believe that SB 251 is one way to help actualize these goals. Currently, Pennsylvania has not received any credit towards the state's Phase 3 WIP for the current Fertilizer Act. Various states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have passed urban fertilizer laws to achieve and receive credit for reductions in fertilizer applications in urban and suburban areas. Pennsylvania is seeking a commonwealth-wide solution for cleaner waters while promoting innovation through technology and product development.

Additionally, counties believe achieving Phase 3 WIP goals is an effort that expands beyond the responsibility of counties, the state and farmers, but truly engages all Pennsylvanians whose lifestyles impact the Chesapeake Bay. Senate Bill 251 levels the playing field, by establishing best practices for use of fertilizer and creation of a certification program for commercial and public application efforts.

Thank you for your attention to these comments, and please feel free to contact us with any further questions.