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**From:** Forsgren, Lee [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A055D7329D5B470FBAA9920CE1B68A7D-FORSGREN, D]  
**Sent:** 6/20/2017 1:46:32 PM  
**To:** Ben Grumbles -MDE- [ben.grumbles@maryland.gov]  
**CC:** Shapiro, Mike [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2c70af880ba747b5a8b6baa45a040125-MShapiro]  
**Subject:** RE: Welcome Aboard and WOTUS too

Ben,

This did find me at EPA and I am also looking forward to working with you as well.

Will make certain that the message you sent on behalf of the state of Maryland are considered.

Regards,  
Lee

-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Grumbles -MDE- [mailto:ben.grumbles@maryland.gov]  
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 9:45 PM  
To: Forsgren, Lee <Forsgren.Lee@epa.gov>  
Subject: Welcome Aboard and WOTUS too

Lee:

I hope this email finds you and your new email address at EPA. Looking forward to working with you!

FYI. While the state of Maryland did not submit state-specific comments on the WOTUS rule by midnight tonight, we have worked closely with the Environmental Council of the States and the Association of Clean Water Administrators to shape their comments on behalf of all states. Those national comments were submitted today.

Regarding Maryland specific comments, I do hope to send a letter soon which shares some thoughts for EPA and the Army Corps

Basic message: We support proposed Trump Administration regulatory reforms at the federal level to increase clarity, consistency, and predictability. We welcome the removal of duplicative permitting requirements for wetlands within state boundaries caused by confusing or overlapping federal requirements. While our comprehensive state protections for wetlands and waterways in Maryland should not be adversely affected, we do have some concerns as a "downstream state" that federal reforms not reduce upstream protections for interstate waters and wetlands. For example, there are 83 streams in the Susquehanna River Basin that cross state lines, with 15 streams that flow from Pennsylvania into Maryland. Small waters and wetlands and groundwater originating upstream may affect our ability to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay, including water quality standards and total maximum daily load safeguards. We also support greater authorization and empowerment of states to assume from the Army Corps of Engineers regulatory permitting authority and to receive training and implementation guidance.

Best.  
Ben  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
410-537-4187

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