

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
**BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**



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Kenneth R. Dement, Commissioner
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Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Commissioner
Daniel H. Raley, Commissioner

August 7, 2007

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Secretary Wilson:

As the population of St. Mary's County increases, we have growing concerns about the availability of water for our local households and businesses. In 2006, we established a water resources management strategy designed to protect against overuse of the Aquia aquifer and direct major new users and large developments to the Patapsco aquifer. However, we fear that our efforts will be insufficient without supportive actions at the state level and by other jurisdictions.

The enclosed letter to Senator Dyson more fully describes these concerns. In brief, we recently became aware of the 2002 Maryland Geological Survey Report: Future of Water Supply from the Aquia and Magothy Aquifers in Southern Anne Arundel County. We now understand that management levels for the Aquia aquifer have been exceeded since 2000 in parts of Anne Arundel County. Despite a state policy that would not allow management levels to be exceeded, we are aware of no actions to remedy this situation.

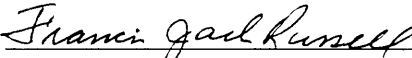
We are committed to strategies involving management, conservation and the exploration of new sources to ensure the future availability of sufficient water for our community and would welcome your involvement and assistance. There may be opportunities, as well, for state initiatives to protect aquifer recharge areas both within and outside of Maryland.


Sheri T. Wilson
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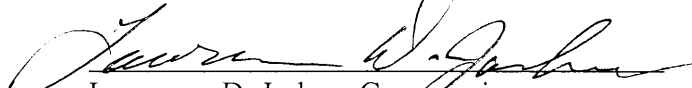
We encourage you to contact County Administrator John Savich if you have any questions we can answer or suggestions for collaboration. Thank you again for the strong relationship we enjoy with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

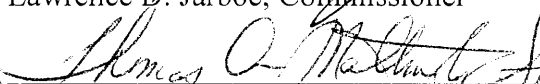
Sincerely,

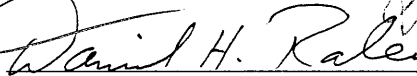
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FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**


Francis Jack Russell, President


Kenneth R. Dement, Commissioner


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Thomas A. Mattingly, Sr., Commissioner


Daniel H. Raley, Commissioner

BOCC: T:All/consent/5437

cc: Senator Roy P. Dyson
Delegate John L. Bohanan, Jr.
Delegate Anthony J. O'Donnell
Delegate John F. Wood, Jr.
John B. Wheeler, Chair, St. Mary's County Water Policy Task Force and Commission on the Environment ✓