



July 24, 2006

The 2006 General Assembly Session will be remembered not only for the extended special session but also for the significant funds allocated to the environment. The Budget Committee of Conference, which I served as a member, created a budget with the largest amount allocated in the history of the Commonwealth to protect our beautiful land and waterways.

During my 23 year career in the State Senate, I have worked closely with many organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Rivanna Conservation Network to protect and conserve our environment. I was honored to be recognized for our achievements with the 2004 Legislative Hero Award from the Virginia Conservation Network and the 1999 Conservation Legislative Award from the Friends of the Rappahannock.

As passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Tim Kaine, the 2006-2008 biennial budget provides over \$280 million to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay and our rivers. This allocation continues our pursuit in reaching the Commonwealth's Chesapeake 2000 Agreement Goals. Enclosed, please find a copy of an advertisement placed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* thanking the General Assembly for its actions.

Despite this positive step, the General Assembly must continue to provide additional funding for our environment. I fully remain committed to this effort.

Please do not hesitate to call upon me with any questions or comments that you may have.