

# Agriculture Involved In Bay Cleanup

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and streams that feed into the Chesapeake."

At this very hour, the Commonwealth's Environmental Quality Board is considering significant changes to the rules and regulations which govern erosion and sedimentation control programs. The proposed regulations tighten permit requirements for earth disturbance near streams and development of large tracts of land.

"In November, the citizens of Pennsylvania endorsed a referendum for a program to preserve agricultural land. This program supported by a \$100 million bond issue will provide conservation easements for at least 25 years to protect agricultural land from development," Case said.

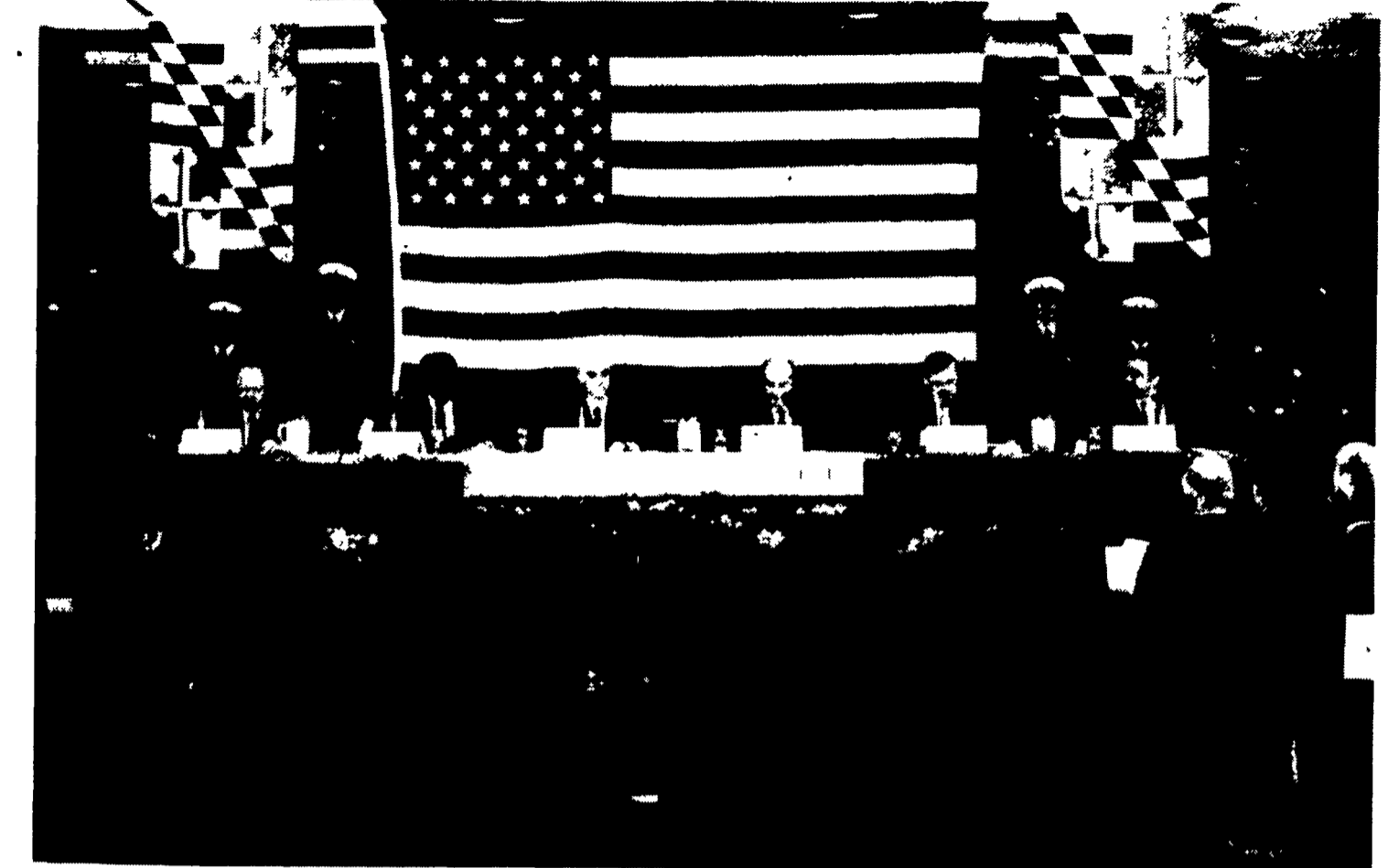
Maryland's Governor William Donald Schaefer, host for the two-day program, said he was especially impressed with the timetable set down by the agreement. "This timetable will be the most difficult part of the agreement," Schaefer said. "But I am determined to speed up our efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. This agreement is important. Just not because it represents a joint commitment of four political jurisdictions, the EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Commission, but because it is based on specific goals and has a timetable that dictates deliberate action. We can restore the bay; and we must," Schaefer said.

On Monday the implementation of the agreement was discussed in six seminars by panels of policy makers representing each of the signators of the agreement. These signators are: William Donald Schaefer, governor, state of Maryland; Robert P. Casey, governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Lee M. Thomas, administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Kenneth J. Cole, chairman, Chesapeake Bay Commission; Marion Barry, Jr., mayor, District of Columbia and Gerald L. Baliles, governor, Commonwealth of Virginia.

In the keynote address at the signing ceremony, former Maryland Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., spoke of the findings of early explorers where fish, oysters and crabs were abundant. He contrasted these findings with his own research that confirmed the bay had become a "dead sea".

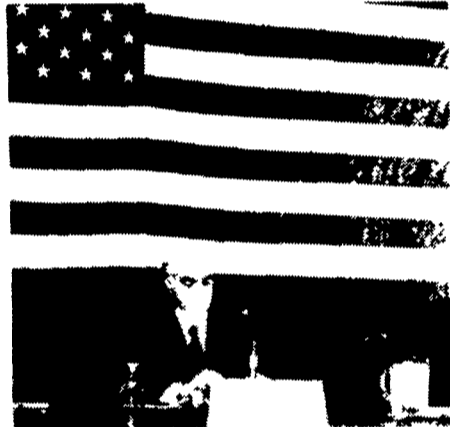
"The enormity of the bay's problems, the seemingly irreversible momentum toward disaster, made the problem seem almost hopeless. That this could have occurred within a 45-minute drive from the nation's capital was a national shame, but at the same time it was an opportunity. With prodding from me and many other people who understood the urgency of the bay's problems, the federal government finally swung into action and began --almost maddeningly slow at first-- to focus its enormous resources on the bay."

"EPA Administrator Russell Train and I put our heads together and proposed a comprehensive study to pinpoint the problems. Congress provided the necessary money in 1975, and eight years later, in 1983, EPA released its study. EPA's picture of the bay was not pretty. It sounded the alarm that the bay was dying, but the research findings gave us cause for hope. For the first time, we were able to catalogue the causes of the decline in the bay's water quality and living resources. And, for the first time, we had targets,



We the signators of this historic agreement...

(L to R) Kenneth J. Cole, Chairman, Chesapeake Bay Commission; Marion Barry Jr., Mayor, District of Columbia; Robert P. Casey, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; William Donald Schaefer, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Gerald L. Baliles, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia and Lee M. Thomas, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



By the people, for the people, one nation under God, indivisible...



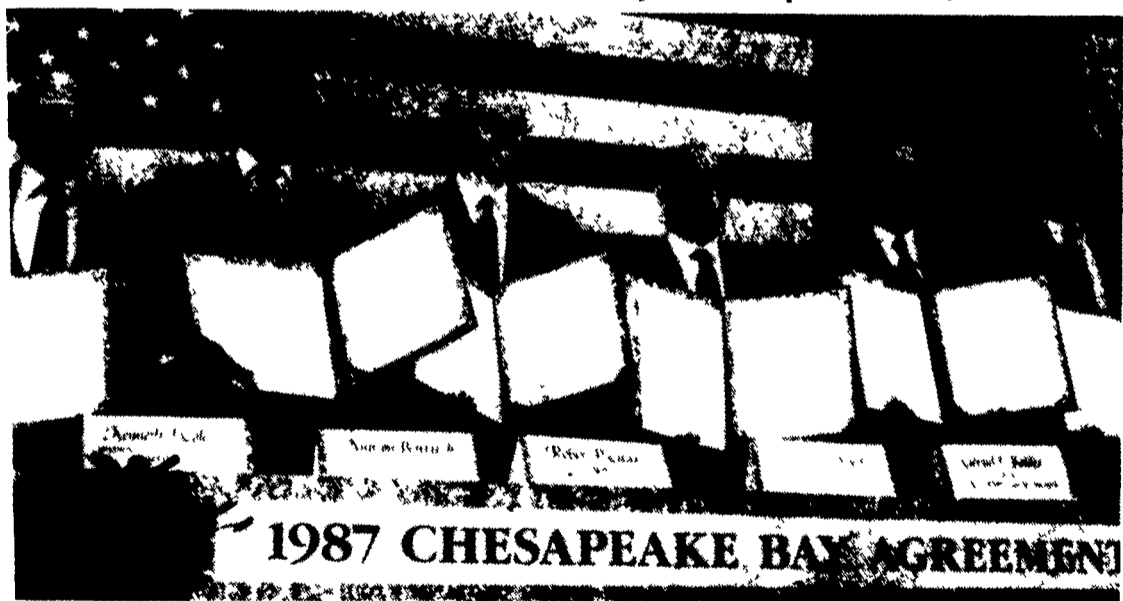
Do hereby take our pens in hand....

priorities, and a plan of attack for reversing the problems."

"Recognizing that the danger to the bay was not just a federal responsibility, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia rose to the occasion, together committing more than \$70 million to address the problems outlined in the study. The new EPA Administrator, William Ruckelshaus, championed the cause. He was able to persuade President Reagan to pour major federal funding into the bay and to single out this national treasure in his 1984 State of the Union Message. Those state and federal commitments proved to be a major turning point in the bay program."

"In 1985, EPA, other federal agencies and the bay states developed a comprehensive document -- the Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Protection Plan -- which set forth general goals for reducing nutrients and toxics, and for restoring living resources. The restoration plan laid a solid foundation for a successful cleanup program. However, it was only the foundation."

"Today, by signing an agreement with specific goals, we are building the structure that will guide us to the 21st Century. For the first time, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia have made a long-term commitment to the bay that sets concrete, bay-wide strategies and goals."



And solemnly vow, from this day forth, to join together, in common goal to reclaim the bay by this living trust.



Ye are all witnesses this day, December 15, 1987.