

Saving the Chesapeake Bay

“The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and an integral part of our identity as Marylanders. It’s part of our heritage and part of our culture. You can count on me to fight to protect the Bay and the jobs that depend on it.”

Protecting the Bay’s Natural Resources

Senator Mikulski is fighting to protect the Chesapeake so Marylanders and visitors can enjoy the Bay’s natural resources:

- Secures \$20 million yearly to continue critical Bay clean-up efforts through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program, including research on the health of the Bay, water quality monitoring and public education programs.
- Fights for funding to continue the Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project, which will stabilize the shoreline, create habitat areas, and restore the wetlands of one of the Bay’s most valuable island ecosystems.
- Supports the Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection (CELP) Program, which will make sure sensitive coastal lands are protected.
- Fought for the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act and the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act to increase Bay clean-up activities and fund local Bay projects.
- Protects the Bay’s beaches by securing EPA grants to support local beach water quality monitoring efforts.
- Requested a national review of pollution being discharged into the Bay watershed.

Fighting for Maryland's Bay Communities

Senator Mikulski is committed to protecting the jobs and industries that Bay residents rely on:

- Secured \$15 million since 1999 to continue efforts to increase the oyster population in the Bay by restoring oyster habitat, creating new reefs, and planting disease-free oysters on those reefs.
- Fought for over \$12 million in federal funding since 2002 for the Blue Crab Advanced Research Consortium to study ways of increasing the crab population in the Bay.
- Working to link the natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources of the Bay and its tributaries into a unified network through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Program.
- Fighting to secure \$975,000 to continue the Army Corps of Engineers shoreline erosion study of the Bay and its tributaries.

Working Toward a Healthy Bay

Senator Mikulski believes the Chesapeake Bay is a critical natural resource and is committed to supporting clean up efforts:

- Champions grants to Maryland communities to improve sewage treatment facilities and reduce harmful nutrients flowing into the Bay, including:
 - \$7.4 million for the Town of Salisbury.
 - \$500,000 each for the Towns of Chestertown, Delmar, Crisfield and Hurlock.
 - \$500,000 for wastewater treatment plants on the Pocomoke River.
 - \$350,000 for the City of Cambridge.
 - \$450,000 each for the Towns of Federalsburg and Elkton.
- Advocated for passage of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Nutrient Removal Assistance Act to authorize upgrades to sewage treatment plants in Bay communities.
- Fought for federal funding to research and resolve the Pfiesteria problem in the Bay and its tributaries by:
 - Securing \$2 million in federal support for Pfiesteria research in 2004.
 - Securing \$7.1 million in 1999 for Pfiesteria research and monitoring through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
 - Providing \$2 million for biological nutrient removal of sewage in the Pocomoke River.