

**CBF is requesting RRBC become signatory to this letter (along with SELC, Potomac Conservancy, Friends of the Rappahannock, Environment VA, League of Conservation Voters, Garden Clubs of Virginia, Hull Springs Far/Longwood University, and others) on Friday April 24, 2009. We may also choose to write or contact Congressman Perriello regarding this issue directly.**

October 19, 2009

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairwoman  
Environment & Public Works Committee  
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable James Inhofe  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable John Mica  
Ranking Member  
Environment & Public Works Committee  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representatives Oberstar and Mica, Senators Boxer and Inhofe:

Vehicles, roadside management, and roads themselves all contribute to the pollution of our waterways. Car exhaust, fluid leaks, gasoline spills, abraded material from engine parts, brakes, and tires wash into the nation's waters during rain events, as does dry and wet deposition of pollutants from the atmosphere. Moreover, the increased volume and speed of runoff leaving roadways, even in routine storms, can erode stream banks and beds, flood property, add significant sediment pollution to our waters, and significantly degrade the aquatic ecosystem.

Practices to keep these pollutants from streams and waterways and to limit the force of runoff are largely nonexistent or inadequate in the federal highway system. The cumulative effect of highway runoff is an unacceptable discharge of toxic metals, nutrients, and sediment to our nation's waters resulting in severely impaired rivers and streams.

As you work to modernize our federal highway system, it is critical that you adequately address the impact of federal-aid roads on water ecosystems. With your leadership, the reauthorization of the federal Surface Transportation Bill can ensure that our nation's highway system will no longer be a significant cause of water quality impairment in the United States. We, the undersigned, urge you to include language in the reauthorization bill that will ensure as close to zero-discharge as possible of pollutants from federal-aid highways.

In recent years, we have increasingly come to understand the negative impact highway runoff has on local water quality. With the reauthorization of the transportation bill, you have a significant opportunity to take strong action to reduce this pollution from federal-aid highways. We look forward to your leadership on this most important issue.

Sincerely,

*cc: Congressman Tom Perriello (VA-5)*