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KCN 5/14

### **Bay Fund Helps**

**To the editor:** In response to Ms. Betty Walbert's letter in *Kent County News* April 30 asking where Bay Restoration Funds (commonly known as the 'flush tax') go:

All Marylanders pay \$2.50 a month into the fund. Money paid by citizens on municipal sewage treatment systems is used to upgrade those systems to remove harmful nutrients before treated water is released into our rivers and streams. Money paid by citizens on septic systems is used to fund nitrogen-removing septic systems and to compensate farmers for planting cover crops that remove nitrogen from groundwater.

Here are some results:

Kent farmers, with the fund's help, have done an outstanding job planting cover crops -- we have the highest percentage of land in the state in cover crops. Homeowners in the Chester River watershed, with the fund's assistance, have moved to install 55 improved septic systems.

The town of Chestertown, in part, because of the fund, now has a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant -- one that is far more effective at improving the river's health than the old plant.

The town of Chestertown and the citizens of Kent County have moved aggressively, with Bay Restoration Fund support, to restore a river that has been seriously impaired by overloads of nutrients. These nutrients lead to cloudy water, death of sub-aquatic vegetation and the loss of fish and crabs.

The Chester River Association applauds these efforts. We urge all residents on septic to apply for Bay Restoration Fund money for septic upgrades.

**Tom Leigh**  
**Chester Riverkeeper**