

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2003**

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February 8, 2018

Dr. Benjamin Friedman, Acting Administrator  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
United States Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Room 5128  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Friedman:

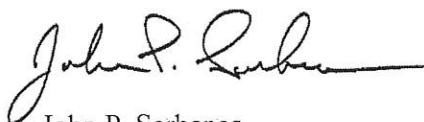
I am writing to express my strong support for an application from the National Aquarium in partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS), Towson University College of Education, Morgan State University (MSU) and Coppin State University (CSU) to the NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program for the Chesapeake Bay. This grant funding will be utilized to support the full implementation of "*Living Laboratory: What Lives in the Harbor?*" program.

This program will provide an entire sixth grade level across BCPS with a Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE). By 2021, it will engage approximately 5,600 students and 120 teachers in 70 schools with active hands-on and classroom-based learning experiences that focus on improving the water quality and marine habitat in the Baltimore Harbor. Additionally, it will aid the State of Maryland in meeting the terms of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement, which calls for a MWEE in all elementary, middle and high schools. This National Aquarium-designed MWEE will use the Aquarium's model urban waterfront as a classroom, enabling students to form a personal connection to the Inner Harbor and to better understand how their actions and decisions impact its health and that of the greater ocean.

While the BCPS system serves as the primary focus of this project, its impacts will be felt throughout the region. University interns from Towson, Morgan State and Coppin State will play a central and significant role by engaging students in field experiences while they gain valuable teaching experience as they work toward their future career in the STEM education or conservation field. The project could also serve as a template for a curriculum that can be adopted in other urban areas.

I strongly support the application by the National Aquarium and BCPS to the NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training Program and ask that you give it all appropriate consideration.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress