

Press Release

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Scientific organization protecting the Potomac River receives \$650,000 from federal government

ROCKVILLE, MD (April 15, 2026) - Since 1940, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) has played a major part in the improvement of water quality in the Potomac River. It was recently announced that ICPRB will receive \$650,000 in federal funding under the Fiscal Year 2026 Energy and Water Appropriations Act recently passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

ICPRB will use these funds to ensure sustainable water uses and supplies, manage human land use for sustainability, protect and improve water quality, improve drinking water quality, and preserve ecological health — all actions that will benefit the more than the 6 million residents of the Potomac River basin.

On being notified of the award, ICPRB Executive Director Michael Nardolilli, acknowledged the critical role played by Maryland Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks in securing these important funds. “All of us who call the 14,000 square miles of the watershed of the Potomac River our home are indebted to Senator Van Hollen and Senator Alsobrooks for supporting ICPRB’s important mission in protecting and enhancing the treasured water resources of the Potomac River,” Nardolilli said.

“For more than 80 years, the ICPRB has played a critical role in the restoration of the Potomac River watershed. With \$650,000 in direct federal funding we fought to secure, the Interstate Commission can continue its efforts to improve the river’s health, which are more vital than ever – and protect a key drinking water supply that millions in our region depend on,” said Senator Chris Van Hollen, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

“We must guarantee that every Marylander has access to clean drinking water – and that we are striving to reach our goals for ecological health. This year, Senator Van Hollen and I worked to secure \$650,000 in federal funding for the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, which will ensure improved water quality and environmental health in the Basin, benefitting over 6 million residents,” said Senator Alsobrooks.

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The ICPRB is an interstate compact commission established by Congress in 1940. Its mission is to protect and enhance the waters and related resources of the Potomac River basin through science, regional cooperation, and education. Represented by appointed commissioners, the ICPRB includes the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the federal government.