

Media Advisory for Tuesday, November 13, 11 am EST

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New report finds Potomac rates a D+ in environmental health

Potomac Conservancy calls on decision makers to preserve Nation's River

The Potomac Conservancy invites you to join a press teleconference call at 11 am EST on Tuesday, November 13, as they urge decision makers and elected officials to take immediate action to protect the Potomac River, which also affects the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The demand for action comes as a result of the Conservancy's new report, *State of the Nation's River: Potomac Watershed 2007*, which rated the Potomac watershed a D+ in environmental health.

CALL-IN DETAILS: Dial 605-475-6006, access code 841666#, to participate in this live, two-way press teleconference call with full Q&A, at 11 am EST on Tuesday, November 13. The first 20 minutes will be devoted to comments with the remainder of the call open for press Q&A.

WHO: Speakers on the call will include:

- H. Hedrick Belin, president of Potomac Conservancy.
- William Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.
- And other experts.

WHAT: During the November 13 call, Potomac Conservancy will discuss the problems that prompted a rating of D+ for the Potomac River in their new report, the first *State of the Nation's River*, which will hereafter revisit the health of the river every five years. They will also highlight the need for enhanced land use and conservation efforts and cover what can be done to protect the Potomac's health.

In the report, Potomac Conservancy outlines the effects of increased paved surfaces and pollution from stormwater, the loss of forest and tree cover, and conversion of traditional family farms by industrial agriculture on the state of the river. As a result of the report, the Conservancy has created the first-ever *Potomac Agenda*. The Agenda will be issued annually, and will be directed to those who have the power to make positive changes for the Potomac. We encourage our decision makers to support a river that is clean and healthy for recreation, swimming and fishing 365 days a year.

The report is compiled from data gathered by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River, Chesapeake Bay Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and researchers at the University of Maryland, among others.

For more information, please visit www.potomac.org or contact Tom Kelchner or Pete Carrels.

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Potomac Conservancy protects the health, beauty, and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries. The Conservancy's primary focus is protection of water quality through land protection and sound land use practices and policies. Because clean water alone is not enough, the Conservancy also works to preserve and restore the Potomac's scenic landscapes, and to enhance river-based recreational opportunities.