

# EASTERN SHORE 2010: A REGIONAL VISION



**WHEREAS** Maryland's Eastern Shore is one of the last great Chesapeake Bay landscapes, with a distinct natural, historical, cultural, and economic character and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Shore's lands, quality of life, and farming, forestry and fisheries industries are threatened by growing development pressure; and

**WHEREAS** the future of the Eastern Shore, including the management of growth and development, definition of our growth centers, protection of our land, vitality of our towns, and the viability of our farming, forestry and fisheries industries substantially involve the interests of the undersigned counties; and

**WHEREAS** the population of the Eastern Shore is projected to grow by 38 percent or 160,000 people in the next 25 years, which will cause the development of 250,000 acres of land. Eastern Shore citizens and their elected county leaders must take charge of growth to shape a desirable future for ourselves and for future generations.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the undersigned counties agree to work cooperatively and exercise leadership to maintain and enhance the Eastern Shore through this regional partnership, recognizing the need for innovative solutions and shared goals to protect our unique region, and to achieve the commitments set forth.

## **WE WILL WORK COOPERATIVELY TOWARDS THE FOLLOWING GOALS:**

☞ Strive to protect from development through the use of voluntary preservation programs 50 percent of Eastern Shore land outside of designated growth areas by 2010, including an annual dedication of combined county and municipal funding for land preservation in an amount equaling at least 1.5 percent of the county operating budget for a given year.

☞ Implement the county economic development plan for the Eastern Shore's traditional industries of farming, forestry and fisheries.

☞ By 2010, manage county growth, including working with municipalities, to: 1) annually guide at least 80 percent of growth into designated growth areas, 2) establish a maximum annual residential growth rate, and 3) include a workforce housing element in the county comprehensive plan pursuant to House Bill 1160, which established a state workforce housing grant program.

☞ Develop a regional transportation plan by 2010 that provides alternatives to a new Bay crossing and emphasizes the use of alternative and public transportation within and among communities.

**SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_, 2007 BY:**

President  
County Commissioners of Caroline County

President  
Kent County Board of County Commissioners

President  
Cecil County Board of County Commissioners

President  
Queen Anne's County Board of County Commissioners

President  
Dorchester County Board of County Commissioners

President  
Talbot County Council