

September 29, 2009

Mike Rolband
Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.
5300 Wellington Branch Drive, Suite 100
Gainesville, VA 20155

Dear Mike,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the ongoing stream restoration project you are undertaking in Reston, Virginia. I am pleased that I had an opportunity to visit and see the improvements your project is making at Snakeden Branch. I am impressed with the magnitude and scale of this ambitious restoration project, and the before and after results you have demonstrated. This work has already provided many ecological benefits, not only for the Reston community and the Potomac River, but the Chesapeake Bay as well.

The Nature Conservancy has long been committed to our mission of preserving plants, animals, and natural communities through protection of the lands and waters needed to ensure their survival. Your Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank addresses both the protection *and* restoration of land and water.

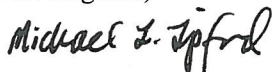
The Conservancy is dedicated to protecting and improving the ecologically unique Chesapeake Bay watershed. We have been successful in our efforts through large scale land protection, aquatic resource restoration, and partnerships. Some recently publicized efforts include the purchase of over 4,000 acres along Dragon Run, partnership with state and county to acquire nearly 3,000 acres at Crow's Nest, and recent efforts with a private landowner to restore streams and wetlands along Bolling Branch.

The ecological stressors and threats associated with urban environments are multiplied in stream systems. Development greatly impacts the health of these systems both on land and in the stream itself. Wooded buffers are critical to maintaining a healthy stream system.

The stream restoration efforts you are undertaking at Reston are based on an understanding of the science and engineering that create stable stream systems within urban environments. Your restoration will restore natural flow to the stream and decrease the threats of flood. Water quality will be improved on many fronts, including decreased erosion and sediment load within the watershed, improved dissolved oxygen, and stable, lower water temperatures. The improvements to both water quality and aquatic habitat will be lasting and far reaching, affecting not only the immediate stream reaches you work on, but for miles downstream.

Efforts such as the stream restoration at Reston are critical if we are to improve the health of the Bay. Your project is an amazing example of public-private partnership that benefits the community and the environment. I commend you on your actions and support you in your continued efforts.

Best Regards,



Michael L. Lipford
Virginia Executive Director