



WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE

2022 WATER WARRIOR AWARD

MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL BRIAN FROSH

Waterkeepers Chesapeake's **2022 Water Warrior Award** is awarded to **Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh** who has a distinguished record of promoting environmental protection in his state and beyond. Year after year, Attorney General Frosh has tenaciously pursued Maryland-based businesses, or those operating in Maryland, whose violations of state environmental laws, including illegal disposal and discharge, illegal operations, falsifying records, broken equipment, and more, cause water pollution and harm to Maryland ecosystems and public health. Since he took office in 2015, Attorney General Frosh:

- With the Choptank Riverkeeper and the Maryland Department of the Environment, achieved a settlement in September 2022 with Eastern Shore poultry processing facility Valley Proteins after the Choptank Riverkeeper discovered that the plant illegally, and repeatedly, discharged ammonia, phosphorus, and other pollutants into the Transquaking River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay.
- In December 2021, informed Governor Larry Hogan that the Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Water Supply Program (WSP) is dramatically understaffed and potentially risking the safety of Maryland's drinking water and the health and welfare of Marylanders and asking the Governor to make public a resource investment plan that was due to the EPA for review and approval by October 2021.
- Achieved a settlement in a lawsuit against Verso Luke LLC and its parent company, Verso Corporation, owners of the Luke Paper Mill, to remediate the seepages discovered by Upper Potomac Riverkeeper of pulping liquor into the North Branch Potomac River that threatened public health and the environment. Upper Potomac Riverkeeper filed initial notice of intent to sue in November 2019.

- Challenged the Trump administration's rollback of protections under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and supported the Biden administration's efforts to restore those protections.
- Led a multi-state amicus coalition in 2019 successfully urging the Supreme Court to reject EPA's position that discharges of pollutants into navigable waters via groundwater are categorically exempt from CWA regulation.
- Successfully challenged federal efforts to conduct seismic testing, and subsequent likely drilling, off the Atlantic Coast, actions that could have resulted in severe and irreparable harm to the coastline and marine life.
- Filed a lawsuit in 2017 against Exxon Mobil and more than 50 other petroleum related companies to recover damages and address the widespread contamination of Maryland's waters with the chemical compound methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), which had been discharged into the environment from leaking underground storage tanks at service stations and other locations, causing serious groundwater contamination in Maryland.
- Helped obtain a consent decree in 2015 settling a lawsuit filed by environmental organizations over millions of pounds of pollution being dumped into the Potomac River from a Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) water filtration plant, leading to a multimillion-dollar project to improve water quality for millions of Marylanders.

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Find information about *In Defense of Water* here:

<https://waterkeeperschesapeake.org/indefenseofwater2022/>