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## **VIRGINIAforever Honors 2024 Bridge Builder Dennis Treacy**

**RICHMOND** – VIRGINIAforever is pleased to announce its 2024 Bridge Builder honoree is longtime environmental steward and former organization chair Dennis Treacy. In addition to being a founding member of VIRGINIAforever and a former director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Dennis possesses decades of both private and public sector experience focused on public service and environmental advocacy. He is also involved with numerous boards and organizations throughout the Commonwealth.

“Every year we honor an individual who embodies VIRGINIAforever’s bridge building ethos and commitment and this year we are delighted to recognize Dennis Treacy,” said Peggy Sanner, chair of VIRGINIAforever. “His deep commitment to finding common ground among differing stakeholders has made Dennis a trusted partner for organizations across a wide spectrum and a remarkable spokesperson for needed state environmental funding.”

Over Treacy’s storied career, he has served as an environmental attorney for a regulated business, the state’s chief environmental regulator, and the voice of business with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. He retired from Smithfield Foods, Inc. where he served as executive vice president and chief sustainability officer. He is also a fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL) and currently chairs the Virginia Business Higher Education Council (VBHEC), which works to advance affordable, high-quality education to support Virginia’s business community.

The award ceremony was held Wednesday night at The Boathouse at Rockett’s Landing where more than 150 Virginia environmental advocates, business leaders, key government officials, and state agency representatives gathered to honor and celebrate Treacy. VIRGINIAforever’s annual Bridge Builder Celebration is the organization’s signature event each fall honoring elected officials and others who have championed efforts to protect Virginia’s land and water.

### **About VIRGINIAforever:**

VIRGINIAforever is a unique, diverse coalition of businesses environmental organizations, and outdoor enthusiasts that advocated for increased government funding for water quality improvements and land conservation across the Commonwealth. It is the only statewide organization that has a primary focus on increasing funding for natural resources protection. To learn more about VIRGINIAforever, visit [www.virginiaforever.org](http://www.virginiaforever.org).

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