



April 30, 2018

Dear House and Senate Budget Conferees:

As budget conferees continue deliberations on a new biennial budget, I want to continue pressing on behalf of VIRGINIA*forever* and its business and environmental members for additional investments in the Commonwealth's natural resources.

Specifically, we continue to strongly encourage the final budget to adopt the following water quality and land conservation investments.

- **Land Conservation.** – Restore \$4.5 million to the Virginia Land Conservation Fund – as recommended in the Governor's original budget – to preserve forestlands, working farmlands, historical lands, and open spaces. Also, restore the \$2.0 million cut from VOF.
- **Stormwater Funding.** – Authorize \$20 million in Virginia Public Building Authority bonds for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund to help localities tackle urban and suburban runoff.
- **Agricultural BMPs.** – Maintain funding for the Ag Cost Share program and Technical Assistance as recommended in the Governor's budget. Also, allow unrefunded marine fuel sales taxes to be deposited into the Water Quality Improvement Reserve Fund to help stabilize funding for Ag BMP practices.



Individual Members: Robert Burnley • Robert Dunn • Ellen Gilinsky • Henry P. Long • Maureen Matsen

Emeritus Members: Johnny C. Finch • Carol Wampler

VIRGINIA*forever* is a diverse coalition of leading business and environmental organizations who advocate on state water quality and land conservation policy and funding matters. Since VIRGINIA*forever*'s 2008 founding, we have worked closely with Virginia governors, the General Assembly, and state environmental agencies to help secure tens of millions of dollars to promote and protect our waters and lands. We believe our efforts benefit the Commonwealth of Virginia, its businesses and economy, and its environment.

I am happy to continue meeting with you to discuss VIRGINIA*forever*'s priorities.

Sincerely,

Dennis Treacy
Chair
VIRGINIA*forever*
Board of Directors