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June 29, 2017

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

On behalf of York County, thank you and our legislators in advance for balancing many competing priorities as you prepare the 2018-2019 budget. We hope you'll continue Virginia's momentum and commitments to achieve a clean Chesapeake Bay by 2025 by prioritizing funding for critically needed water quality investments.

Stormwater management is one of our most pressing infrastructure challenges. We respectfully request that you include a proposed appropriation for the Storm Water Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) in the amount of \$50 million per year in your last biennial budget. We recognize the fiscal constraints that led to zero funding for SLAF in the 2017 budget, and are hopeful that 2018 efforts will make up for that shortfall so that localities can do their part by planning and budgeting appropriately for these large-scale projects.

The highly competitive grants funded by SLAF can be used for cost-efficient, low-impact practices to help municipalities like York County continue to make strides in reducing polluted runoff. These projects help us meet our MS4 permit requirements while improving the health of the Bay. For example, York County has completed \$1,011,250 worth of improvements through SLAF, and has another \$781,250 already in design. We are using these funds to create large wetlands, ponds, and stream restorations which all work together to meet our water quality goals.

Polluted runoff is not just an environmental problem; it is also an economic problem. It increases drinking water treatment costs, worsens local flooding, closes beaches, and contaminates shellfish.

We appreciate that you recognize the value of Virginia's natural resources to our quality of life and Virginia's economy. Thank you for your continued leadership in this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Sheila S. Noll, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors

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A Hampton Roads Community

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe

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Copies to: Members of the York County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Mamie Locke
The Honorable Monty Mason
The Honorable Thomas Norment, Jr.
The Honorable Gordon Helsel
The Honorable Michael Mullin
The Honorable Brenda Pogge