



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA
WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION



PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

SENT VIA EMAIL

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: Coordinated Response to COVID-19

Dear Governor Ralph Northam:

During these unprecedented times, we write in an effort to ensure a coordinated response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). All Virginians share the desire to return to life as we knew it before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we recognize that is not possible at this time. As we grapple with the current public health and economic crisis, the scale of which we have not seen in a century, we thank you for your steadfast leadership. The plans you have outlined to date are appreciated as your administration has vowed to continue to base decisions on science and data.

As government leaders at the helm of Loudoun, Fairfax and Prince William counties, we proudly represent more than 2 million residents; just shy of a quarter of the population of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Sadly, our three counties also account for 40 percent of all known positive cases and hospitalizations due to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the Commonwealth. Regionally, Northern Virginia equates for 40 percent of the Commonwealth's GDP.

Since the declaration of a state of emergency in the Commonwealth on March 12, we have worked closely with our communities and regional partners to ensure that Northern Virginia's response is unified and continues to meet the needs of all residents. These efforts continue today.

To that end, we write to you today to communicate our strong desire to be both briefed and consulted as your administration makes decisions about the reopening of the Commonwealth. As you know, our communities are unique, and our needs remain great. Overcoming this pandemic will require even closer communication and a clear understanding of what our localities face currently and in the future; we can bring that perspective. We request a discussion with you prior to future announcements about the state's reopening. This is not an attempt to slow our progress. Rather, a recognition of the need for greater collaboration between state and local governments.

Additionally, we request a weekly phone call between a member of your team and our chiefs of staff. This too will help with the flow of information and help better open lines of communication. In addition to the reopening, some of the topics our respective teams would like to cover include testing capacity, the acquisition of personal protective equipment, racial disparities, and the methodology used for the distribution of CARES Act funds.



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These are unprecedented times. We look forward to working with your administration on the easing of public restrictions and reopening of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Phyllis J. Randall
Chair At-Large
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Jeff McKay
Chairman At-Large
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Ann B. Wheeler
Chair At-Large
Prince William Board of County Supervisors

cc: Honorable Aubrey Layne, Office of the Secretary of Finance
Clark Mercer, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam
Marvin Figueroa, Legislative Director, Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam