

**Mayors and Chairs of the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William,
and the City of Alexandria**

May 10, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Northam:

Thank you for your leadership during this extraordinary time for our Commonwealth. We appreciate your partnership with local governments in addressing the public health crisis, the human crisis and the economic crisis that this outbreak has caused in our jurisdictions. This partnership will be critical as we address the decisions in the weeks and months ahead.

We appreciate that you took the time to speak with us this week and solicit our perspectives on the reopening decisions that you must make. As you know, together our jurisdictions represent half of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths. As we make local decisions during this time, we understand that confidence in public health is a foundation for restoring commerce. We appreciate your thoughtful and data-driven approach to striking the correct balance.

As you make the decision as to when Phase 1 should commence, we offer the following input:

- 1) The threshold metrics that you provided in the *Forward Virginia* plan should guide any transition to Phase 1.
- 2) We believe the industry-specific guidelines that you provided for Phase 1 are appropriate and prudent.
- 3) The transition to Phase 1 in Northern Virginia should occur when our region has achieved the threshold metrics.

Two weeks ago, you released your *Forward Virginia* blueprint for the easing of the public health restrictions currently in place. You provided five threshold metrics for a transition to Phase 1:

- Downward trend of positive tests over a period of 14 days
- Downward trend of hospitalizations over a period of 14 days
- Enough hospital beds and intensive care capacity
- Increasing and sustainable supply of PPE
- Increased testing and tracing

On Friday, you provided additional detail as to what an easing of public health restrictions would look like in Phase 1. Sharing the specific industry guidelines greatly assists our small businesses in determining how they will operate during this important transitional phase.

While it is certainly useful to examine statewide metrics as we gauge the success of current public health policies, we feel strongly that any changes to current policies be guided by what is occurring in our region. We eagerly wish to rebuild our economy and help our residents recover. It is only through our regional achievement of these milestones that we will be positioned to avoid a more damaging return to business closures later in the summer.

We have attached a memo provided to the State Health Commissioner by our public health directors with their analysis of the region's achievement of the threshold metrics.

We thank you for your consideration of our views during this time.

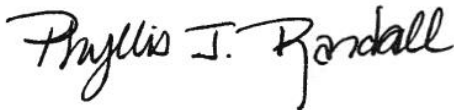
Sincerely,



Libby Garvey, Chair
Arlington County Board



Jeff McKay, Chair
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Phyllis Randall, Chair
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors



Ann Wheeler, Chair
Prince William County Board of Supervisors



Justin Wilson, Mayor
Alexandria City Council

Enclosure: As Stated