



February 9, 2022

Virginia Beach and Norfolk Delegations  
Virginia General Assembly

Dear Senator/Delegate:

On behalf of the Virginia Beach Vision and Greater Norfolk Corporation Boards of Directors, comprised of senior business and civic leaders in the community, we ask that the 2022 General Assembly establish an adequate, reliable, and continuous funding source to support flood protection projects in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A dedicated statewide funding source is critical to our economic future. At risk regionally are our military facilities, the Port of Virginia, the supply chain network, and the tourism industry. Further, dedicated state funding will allow us to leverage federal infrastructure funding resulting in cost savings for the Commonwealth and local governments.

The Hampton Roads area has become increasingly aware of the challenges that recurrent flooding and predicted sea level rise will have on the future resiliency, economic prosperity, and quality of life in the region and beyond. Though not all impacted directly by sea level rise, jurisdictions across the Commonwealth are subject to catastrophic flooding. The cumulative needs are estimated at \$40 billion statewide, well beyond the financial means of local governments.

As demonstrated in Virginia Beach's November referendum authorizing \$567.5 million in bonding authority for stormwater protection and passing with 72% of the vote, the public is aware of the need for immediate action. As significant as that action was, it comes nowhere near meeting the needs to adequately address flooding concerns in the city, the region, or the Commonwealth.

In Virginia Beach alone, FEMA estimates:

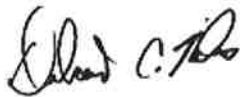
- Currently 1 in 10 buildings is at risk of damage if a large storm hit today.
- 1 in 4 buildings is a risk with a sea level rise of 1.5 feet.
- 2 out of every 3 structures is at risk with a sea level rise of 3 feet.
- Average losses due to stormwater flood hazards are already \$437 million annually.
- Under 1.5 feet of sea level rise, they are projected to climb to \$616 million.
- Under 3 feet of sea level rise, that estimate reaches \$1.66 billion.

In Norfolk, the challenges are even greater where:

- Currently 1 in 5 buildings is at risk of damage if a large storm hit today.
- 1 in 3 buildings is a risk with a sea level rise of 1.5 feet.
- 1 out of every 2 structures is at risk with a sea level rise of 3 feet.

The risks posed by flooding impact business development desirability and municipal bond ratings. It impacts flood insurance rates and infrastructure costs. It poses a significant and growing risk that necessitates a partnership at the local, state, and federal levels. We ask that you take steps to ensure the Commonwealth is a full partner in providing an immediate and continuous funding stream for flood mitigation purposes through the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Respectfully submitted,



Delceno C. Miles  
President  
Virginia Beach Vision



Charity Volman-Winn  
President  
Greater Norfolk Corporation