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Hon. P. David Tarter

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Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.

May 10, 2020

Honorable. Ralph S. Northam

Governor

Commonwealth of Virginia

P.O. Box 1475

Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

County of Arlington

County of Fairfax

County of Loudoun

**County of Prince
William**

City of Alexandria

City of Fairfax

City of Falls Church

City of Manassas

**City of Manassas
Park**

Town of Dumfries

Town of Herndon

Town of Leesburg

Town of Vienna

Thank you for your strong leadership during these difficult times and for your collaboration with local governments across the state as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your willingness to work with representatives from Northern Virginia on a path forward to reopening our region of the Commonwealth in a responsible manner.

We also appreciate the clear framework that you have set forth in the Virginia Forward blueprint for the gradual easing of the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place:

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

We support the metrics and guidelines that you have articulated.

It appears from the attached charts (derived from VDH data) that the region does not yet meet these criteria. We believe the regional achievement of these milestones prior to Phase 1 reopening will result in the best public health outcome and will greatly decrease the likelihood of having to fall back to the current restrictions that are so harmful to local business.

Like you, we are anxious to restore our local economies and help our residents and businesses thrive. We believe that the timing of Phase 1, as well as the later phases of the re-opening process must be guided by data, the achievement of articulated metrics, and what is occurring in our region.

With many sincere thanks for your leadership and understanding.

Sincerely,

P. David Tarter, Chairman of NVRC, Mayor City of Falls Church

Jeanette Rishell, Mayor, City of Manassas Park

Lisa Merkel, Mayor, Town of Herndon

Derrick Wood, Mayor, Town of Dumfries

Laurie DiRocco, Mayor, Town of Vienna

David Meyer, Mayor, City of Fairfax

Libby Garvey, Chairman, Arlington County