

Virginia's Urban Crescent

January 11, 2016

The Honorable Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Members of the Senate of Virginia
General Assembly Building
P. O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable Members of the Virginia House of Delegates
General Assembly Building
P.O. Box 406
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor McAuliffe and Members of the 2016 Virginia General Assembly:

On December 11, 2015, more than 150 government, school division, and business representatives from Virginia's Urban Crescent met to discuss the following concerns regarding the Commonwealth's share of funding for public education:

1. Since FY 09, the Commonwealth has reduced its share of funding for public education by more than \$1 billion.
2. State funding on a per pupil inflation adjusted basis has decreased from \$4,275 per pupil in FY 09 to \$3,655 per pupil in FY 15.
3. Virginia local governments are contributing double the amount required under current statute for public education, even as property values have significantly declined.
4. In comparison with other states, Virginia is in the top ten in both per capita and median household income, but in the bottom ten for public education funding.

Although the Urban Crescent comprises only 24 percent of the land area in Virginia, it is home to over 70 percent of the Commonwealth's school-aged children. The Urban Crescent's governments, school divisions and business community understand the importance of an excellent public education system as Virginia competes in a global economy. Our Commonwealth needs funding to support the current and future costs of a quality education system. However, local governments cannot realistically sustain the extraordinary funding demands of the past several years without continued dramatic impacts on other essential local government services.

The local governments, school divisions and business partners of the Virginia Urban Crescent call upon the 2016 Virginia General Assembly and Governor to meaningfully increase the Commonwealth's proportional and required share of funding for a high quality public education system.

Sincerely,

The Mayors and Chairs of Virginia's Urban Crescent
The Chief Administrative Officers of Virginia's Urban Crescent
The School Divisions in Virginia's Urban Crescent
The CEOs of Virginia's Urban Crescent Chambers of Commerce

Sharon Bulova
Chair, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Clyde A. Hallman
Mayor, City of Williamsburg
Chairman, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

William D. Euille
Mayor, City of Alexandria

James E. Baker
City Manager, City of Chesapeake

Libby Garvey
Chair, Arlington County Board of Supervisors

Steve A. Elswick
Chairman, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors

Patrick K. Murphy, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Arlington County Public Schools

William D. Clark
Superintendent, Dinwiddie County Public Schools

George F. Spagna
Mayor, Town of Ashland

William R. Haney
Chairman, Dinwiddie County School Board

George Parker III, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools

Gerald M. Foreman
Mayor, Town of Dumfries

Charles M. Culley
County Administrator, Caroline County

Mary L. Person
Mayor, City of Emporia

David Gaston, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Charles City County Public Schools

R. Scott Silverthorne
Mayor, City of Fairfax

Alan P. Krasnoff
Mayor, City of Chesapeake

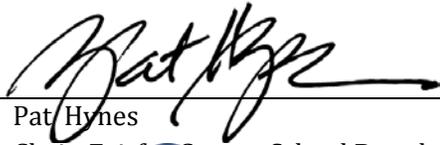
Peter Noonan, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Fairfax Public Schools

Ella P. Ward
Council Member, City of Chesapeake

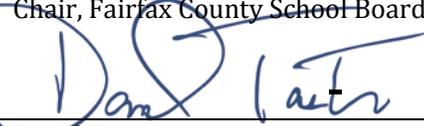
Tobin Sorenson
Chair, City of Fairfax School Board

James T. Roberts, Ph.D.
Superintendent, City of Chesapeake Public Schools

Karen Garza, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools



Pat Hynes
Chair, Fairfax County School Board



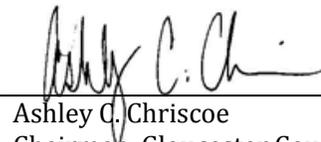
David Tarter
Mayor, City of Falls Church

RD Johnson Ashburn

Raystine D. Johnson-Ashburn
Mayor, City of Franklin



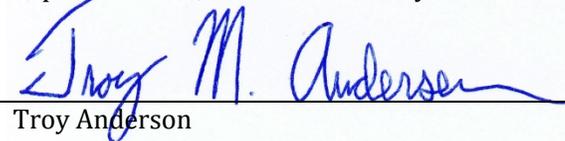
Mary Katherine Greenlaw
Mayor, City of Fredericksburg



Ashley C. Chriscoe
Chairman, Gloucester County Board of Supervisors



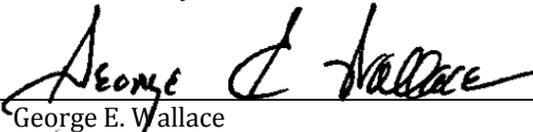
Walter R. Clemons, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Gloucester County Public Schools



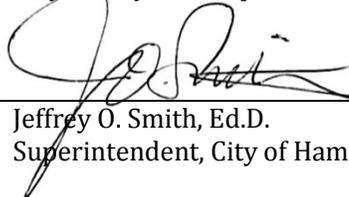
Troy Anderson
Chairman, Gloucester County School Board



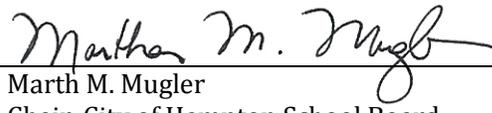
Sanford B. Wanner
Interim County Administrator, Gloucester County



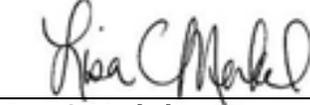
George E. Wallace
Mayor, City of Hampton



Jeffrey O. Smith, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Hampton Public Schools



Marth M. Mugler
Chair, City of Hampton School Board



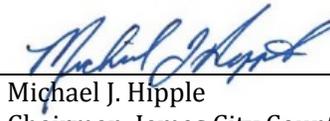
Lisa C. Merkel
Mayor, Town of Herndon



Rex Alphin
Chairman, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors



James Thornton, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Isle of Wight County Public Schools



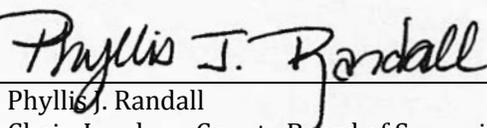
Michael J. Hipple
Chairman, James City County Board of Supervisors



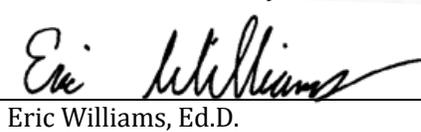
Bryan J. Hill
County Administrator, James City County



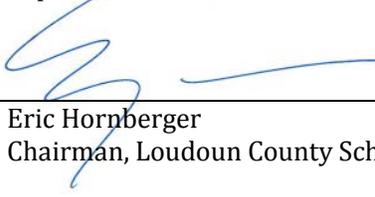
Kelly Burk
Vice-Mayor, Town of Leesburg



Phyllis J. Randall
Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors



Eric Williams, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Loudoun County Public Schools



Eric Hornberger
Chairman, Loudoun County School Board

Harry J. Parrish, II
Mayor, City of Manassas

T. Jeff Stodghill
Chairman, City of Newport News School Board

Catherine B. Magouyrk, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Manassas Public Schools

Paul D. Frain
Mayor, City of Norfolk

Timothy Demeria
Chairman, City of Manassas School Board

Rodney A. Jordan
Chairman, City of Norfolk School Board

Frank Jones
Mayor, City of Manassas Park

W. Howard Myers
Mayor, City of Petersburg

C. Bruce McDade

C. Bruce McDade, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Manassas Park Public Schools

Linda Shifflette, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Petersburg Public Schools

Kimberly Alexander
City Manager, City of Manassas Park

Kenneth L. Pritchett
Chairman, City of Petersburg School Board

Dave Myers, Ph.D.
Superintendent, New Kent County Public Schools

W. Eugene Hunt
Mayor, City of Poquoson

Sarah Grier Barber
Chair, New Kent County School Board

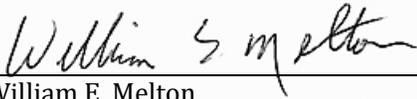
Jennifer Parish, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Poquoson Public Schools

McKinley L. Price, DDS
Mayor, City of Newport News

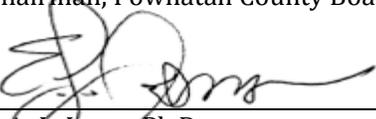
Steven Kast
Chairman, City of Poquoson School Board

Ashby D. Kilgore, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Newport News Public Schools

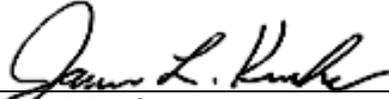
Kenneth I. Wright
Mayor, City of Portsmouth



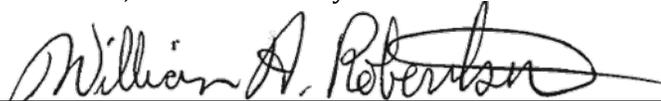
William E. Melton
Chairman, Powhatan County Board of Supervisors



Eric L. Jones, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Powhatan County Public Schools



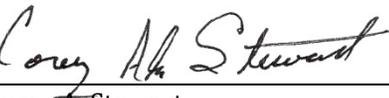
James L. Kunka
Chairman, Powhatan County School Board



William A. Robertson
Chairman, Prince George County Board of Supervisors



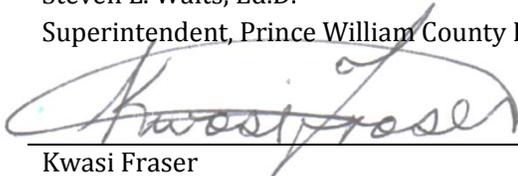
Renee Williams
Superintendent, Prince George County Public Schools



Corey A. Stewart
Chairman, Prince William County Board of Supervisors



Steven L. Walts, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Prince William County Public Schools



Kwasi Fraser
Mayor, Town of Purcellville



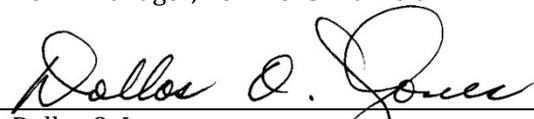
Jeffrey Bourne
Chairman, City of Richmond School Board



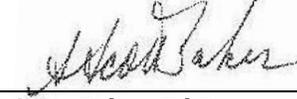
T. Carter Williams
Mayor, Town of Smithfield



Peter M. Stephenson
Town Manager, Town of Smithfield



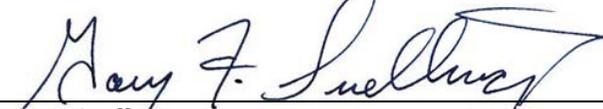
Dallas O. Jones
Chairman, Southampton County Board of Supervisors



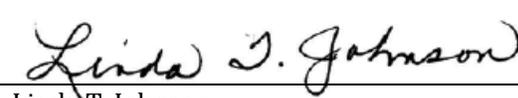
Scott Baker, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Spotsylvania County Public Schools



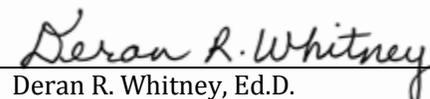
Dawn Shelley
Chair, Spotsylvania County School Board



Gary Snellings
Chairman, Stafford County Board of Supervisors



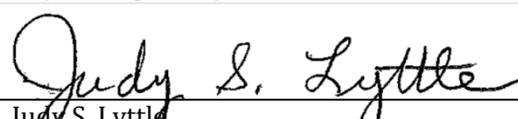
Linda T. Johnson
Mayor, City of Suffolk



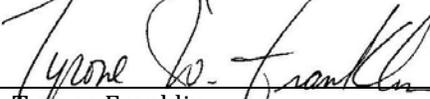
Deran R. Whitney, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Suffolk Public Schools



Patrick Roberts
City Manager, City of Suffolk



Judy S. Lyttle
Chair, Surry County Board of Supervisors



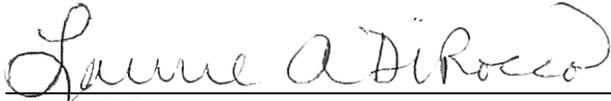
Tyrone Franklin
County Administrator, Surry County



Deborah A. Davis
County Administrator, Sussex County



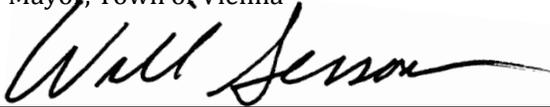
Neil A. Morgan
County Administrator, York County



Laurie DiRocco
Mayor, Town of Vienna



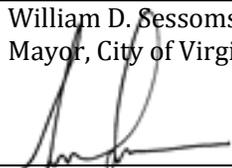
Karen Riordan
President, Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance



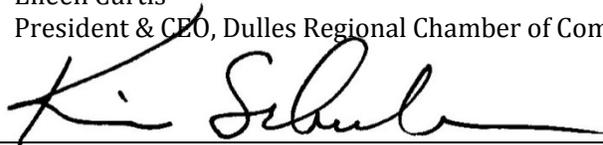
William D. Sessoms
Mayor, City of Virginia Beach



Eileen Curtis
President & CEO, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce



Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D.
Superintendent, City of Virginia Beach Public Schools



Kim Sheeler
President & CEO, Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce



Daniel D. Edwards
Chairman, City of Virginia Beach School Board



Nancy-jo Manney
President & CEO, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce



Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Williamsburg/James City County Public Schools



Bryan K. Stephens
President & CEO, Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce



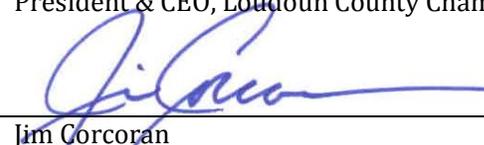
Carita J. Richardson
Mayor, Town of Windsor



Anthony Howard
President & CEO, Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce



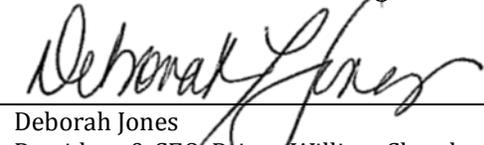
Thomas G. Shepperd
Member, York County Board of Supervisors



Jim Corcoran
President & CEO, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce



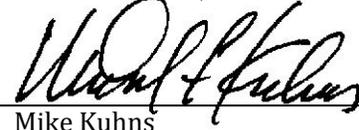
Victor Shandor, Ed.D.
Superintendent, York County Public Schools



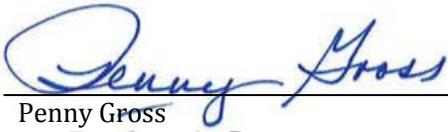
Deborah Jones
President & CEO, Prince William Chamber of Commerce



Mark A. Medford
Chairman, York County School Board



Mike Kuhns
President & CEO, Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce



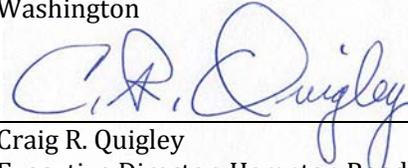
Penny Gross
Chair, Northern Virginia Regional Commission



Kathy Hollinger
President & CEO, Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington



Howard B. Kiser
Executive Director, Virginia Association of School Superintendents



Craig R. Quigley
Executive Director, Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facilities Alliance