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COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE

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November 1, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin, Governor Commonwealth of Virginia P. O. Box 1475 Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Youngkin:

On behalf of the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, I write to express strong support for increased funding for Planning District Commissions (PDC) in your biennial budget for FY25/26. State funding of an additional \$150,000 per PDC per year in Virginia is critically needed to enhance the capacity of PDCs to support and assist both the State and their communities.

In Albemarle County, the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission provides professional, reliable, and trusted support. The TJPDC is uniquely situated to serve as a convener of its member localities to navigate difficult challenges that cross jurisdictional lines — for example, affordable housing, broadband development, and transit. TJPDC staff provide efficient support that otherwise would either need to be absorbed locally, adding pressure to local staff resources, or simply not be addressed. TJPDC's role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the convener of the Regional Housing Partnership and Regional Transit Partnership, the grant lead on a transformational Virginia Telecommunication Initiative broadband infrastructure grant, and other emerging needs, is a critical asset for our local governments.

We feel strongly that the TJPDC has been a critical partner to help our community and region to proactively address collective challenges. But there is more that can be done. We are at an opportune time with the availability of grant funding being available; adding resources to PDCs will help bring federal dollars to the state and regions. This additional state funding being requested

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also could be used to extend PDC staff capacity to assist the State and to prepare and execute additional projects with their member local governments, driving more effective and efficient local government.

We appreciate the efforts of the Youngkin Administration to work alongside localities to promote and enhance efficiency in government. On behalf of Albemarle County, thank you for your consideration of these views and this request. Your support and favorable action would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Donna P. Price Chair, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Jeffrey B. Richardson, County Executive Steve Rosenberg, County Attorney