

November 30, 2018

Mr. David Hannah County of Albemarle 401 McIntire Road Charlottesville, VA 22902

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Dear David,

Thank you for your hard work preparing the Biodiversity Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Last night's roundtable was organized, well attended and well facilitated.

As promised, I have attached significant edits to the draft chapter. These edits are designed to improve clarity and add emphasis to certain elements. I also attempted to make this amendment more consistent with the balance of the Comprehensive Plan language.

As I mentioned last night, I believe a chart outlining the acreage you are considering important would be helpful to building understanding. I know you have this data and do not fault you for not having it at your fingertips at last night's session:

Conservation Focus Areas Total XX,XXX acres; XX,XXX acres in public lands X,XXX acres privately held **Important Sites** Total XXX acres; XXX acres in public land, XXX acres privately held.

I believe it would be helpful to more clearly state the import of private stewardship. Many of the lines I eliminated in the draft plan could be considered academic at best. Others might read the passages as argumentative. The place for these citation and discussions is in the appendices not the body of the plan.

The import of local government leading the way with best management practices on public lands could be called out more clearly. This is the opportunity to use local service providers and have them gain expertise and understanding regarding biodiversity. While appreciative of the concept of cross-referencing other chapters to the biodiversity amendment, I do not believe this adds a great deal to an already lengthy amendment.

Please know these edits are offered in the spirit of cooperation and hope they will be received as constructive criticism. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neil Williamson, President

550 Hillsdale Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901 434-817-2380 <u>neil@freeenterpriseforum.org</u> www.freeenterpriseforum.org