



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

Mark R. Herring
Attorney General

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June 30, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & U.S. MAIL

Matthew D. Hardin
314 West Grace Street, Suite 308
Richmond, Virginia 23220
matthewdhardin@gmail.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act request – received June 23, 2017

Dear Mr. Hardin:

The Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia (hereinafter, "Office") acknowledges receipt of the above-referenced request in which you seek certain records pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Virginia Code Section 2.2-3700, *et seq.* (hereinafter, "FOIA"). Specifically, you request:

- I. Please provide us copies of any correspondence that is a) to or from or copies (including also as either cc: or bcc:) the Attorney General, and/or to or from or copying (whether as cc: or bcc:) Don Anderson, b) which correspondence is dated between March 15, 2017 and the date you process this request, and c) which correspondence includes anywhere in the email "thread", [*sic*] whether in an email domain, Subject or body of the email:
 - a. @georgetownclimate.org
 - b. @americanprogress.org
 - c. @bloomberg.org
 - d. @wearestillin.com
- II. Additionally, please provide copies of all correspondence dated between March 15, 2017 and the present, which is to or from or copying (including also as either cc: or bcc:) the Attorney General, Don Anderson, and/or Stuart Raphael, which

includes the term "U.S. Climate Alliance" (including variations such as "US Climate Alliance" or "United States Climate Alliance").

We request entire email/text threads of which any record responsive to any of these requests is part.

Please find enclosed two documents responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. O'Brien". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Meaghan O'Brien
FOIA Administrator

Enclosures

O'Brien, Meaghan E.

From: Gomer, Charlotte (GOV) <Charlotte.Gomer@governor.virginia.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2017 12:14 PM
Subject: The Governor's Top 5



Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of Governor Terry McAuliffe

Governor's Top 5

★★★★★
THIS WEEK IN THE
NEW VIRGINIA ECONOMY



Since the beginning of the McAuliffe administration, 955 economic development deals have been closed in Virginia worth \$16.13 billion in capital investment, which is more than any previous governor in the first 40 months in office. Governor McAuliffe is focused on growing the #NewVAEconomy and continuing our historic economic success.

The Governor's Top 5

1. *Governor McAuliffe Commits Virginia to the U.S. Climate Alliance*

Virginia Joins Alliance of States Committed to Upholding Paris Agreement

RICHMOND – Governor Terry McAuliffe today announced that the Commonwealth of Virginia and 12 other states formed an alliance to move forward on the principles of the Paris Climate Agreement, despite President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the federal government from the accord.

This decision to join the U.S. Climate Alliance follows the Governor's signature of an Executive Directive initiating carbon emissions by electric utilities in Virginia, the first action of its kind since President Trump took office.

"As the first state in the Trump era to take executive action to limit carbon emissions and create clean energy jobs to join the U.S. Climate Alliance," **said Governor McAuliffe**. "President Trump's announcement to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement does not speak for the states and cities that are committed to fighting climate change and paving the way for a new energy economy. If the federal government insists on abdicating leadership on this issue, it will be up to people to step forward – and in Virginia we are doing just that."

In addition to Virginia, the U.S. Climate Alliance is composed of the states of California, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

TAKEAWAYS:

- [What are the details of this announcement?](#)
- "As the first state in the Trump era to take executive action to limit carbon emissions and create clean energy jobs, Virginia is proud to join the U.S. Climate Alliance," **said Governor McAuliffe**. "President Trump's announcement to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement does not speak for the states and cities that are committed to fighting climate change and paving the way for a new energy economy. If the federal government insists on abdicating leadership on this issue, it will be up to the American people to step forward – and in Virginia we are doing just that."

PRESS:

- [D.C. and Virginia, bucking Trump, pledge to honor Paris climate pact](#) – The Washington Post
- [Rejecting Trump, Virginia leaders say they will join other states and cities in climate change fight](#) – Richmond Times-Dispatch
- [McAuliffe adds Va. to climate alliance](#) – Bristol Herald Courier
- [Virginia Joins Other States in Paris Climate Goal Alliance](#) – Associated Press

2. *Governor McAuliffe Announces Amazon Web Services to Bring 1,500 Jobs to Virginia, Beating Out Texas and Washington*



TAKEAWAYS:

- [What are the details of this announcement?](#)
- “It is a tremendous honor for Amazon Web Services to select Fairfax County and the Commonwealth for its East Coast corporate campus,” **said Governor Terry McAuliffe**. “When one of the world’s most successful companies chooses to expand its footprint across Virginia, it is a testament to our talented workforce and business climate. Because it was a priority to win this transformational project, we partnered with Virginia’s Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission to ensure that AWS chose the Commonwealth. We have a longstanding relationship with Amazon and are proud that the company will continue to play a key role in building the new Virginia economy.”

PRESS:

- [Amazon Web Services to bring up to 1,500 new jobs to Fairfax](#) – Associated Press
- [Amazon creating 1,500 new jobs in Fairfax County](#) – FOX5
- [Amazon Expanding Its Operations In Fairfax](#) – FairfaxNews
- [Amazon Web Services planning new East Coast campus in Northern Virginia](#) – GeekWire

3. *Governor McAuliffe and First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe Announce \$935,000 USDA Grant Aimed at Improving Summer Food Security*

Governor McAuliffe Announces USDA Grant Aimed at Improving Summer Food Security

-Project will benefit students in Richmond & Southwest-

RICHMOND — Governor Terry McAuliffe today announced a \$935,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Service that will provide approximately 9,000 students and their families in nine Richmond schools and eight Southwest Virginia school divisions with increased food security.

The award allows the Commonwealth to continue its Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) for the Children Demonstration Project for a second year. The project is administered by the Virginia Department of Education in partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services.

"As we work together to build the new Virginia economy, we must ensure that we are providing all of our students with the resources they need to succeed -- including access to nutritious meals," said **Governor McAuliffe**. "This grant builds upon the First Lady's tremendous work combating hunger in Virginia and will make it possible for even more students to become food secure."

"Summer is a difficult time for food insecure families," said **First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe**. "Household budgets are stretched to the max when kids lose access to school meals. The continuation of the Summer EBT pilot will provide families with much-needed relief and demonstrate that new, innovative programs can move us toward ending childhood hunger once and for all."

The participating school divisions in Southwest Virginia are Bristol, Buchanan County, Galax, Grayson County, Lee County, Scott County, Smyth County and Tazewell County. Families of students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals in these divisions, and in the participating Richmond schools, will receive \$30 a month in benefits during the summer to improve food security.

The participating Richmond schools are Albert Hill Middle, Bellevue Elementary, Blackwell Elementary, J.E.B. Stuart Elementary, Miles Jones Elementary, Oak Grove Elementary, Overby-Sheppard Elementary, Thomas H. Henderson Middle, and Westover Hills Elementary.

"Although participation in summer feeding programs is increasing in Virginia, it is often difficult for families to travel to feeding sites due to lack of transportation or distance in rural areas," **Superintendent of Public Instruction Steven R. Staples** said. "EBT benefits provide an efficient means for eligible children and families to increase their food security during the summer months."

"These benefits will help families offset the free breakfasts and lunches children receive during the school year," said **Margaret Ross Schultz**, **VDSS Commissioner**. "Children are able to maintain nutritional consistency year-round, which helps to mitigate a loss of learning over the summer, and better prepare them for school in the fall."

Last summer, the food security demonstration project provided \$878,000 in benefits to students and families in Richmond and the eight southwestern school divisions.

The summer food benefits program is a component of the Virginia 365 Project, which is led by First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe. The VA 365 Project is the result of an \$8.8 million grant received from USDA in 2015, which seeks to eliminate childhood hunger among school-aged children by ensuring that children have access to healthy meals daily, year-round. The Project does so by serving three meals a day to all children during the school year, providing food for weekends/school breaks through a backpack program and EBT cards during the summer months to eligible families.

TAKEAWAYS:

- [What are the details of this announcement?](#)
- "As we work together to build the new Virginia economy, we must ensure that we are providing all of our students with the resources they need to succeed -- including access to nutritious meals," said **Governor McAuliffe**. "This grant builds upon the First Lady's tremendous work combating hunger in Virginia and will make it possible for even more students to become food secure."
- "Summer is a difficult time for food insecure families," said **First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe**. "Household budgets are stretched to the max when kids lose access to school meals. The continuation of the Summer EBT pilot will provide families with much-needed relief and demonstrate that new, innovative programs can move us toward ending childhood hunger once and for all."

PRESS:

- [Gov. McAuliffe announces grant to help provide food to children during summer](#) – Bluefield Daily Telegraph
- [Families to get help paying for food during school break](#) – Associated Press
- [Gov. announces grant aimed at improving summer food security for Richmond and Southwest Virginia students](#) – Richmond Times-Dispatch
- [Bristol, SWVa. to receive \\$935,000 USDA grant](#) – Bristol Herald Courier

4. Governor McAuliffe Signs Legislation Aimed at Preventing Bullying in Schools



PRESS:

- [McAuliffe signs bills aimed at preventing bullying, teen suicide](#) – Prince William Times
- [Gov. McAuliffe signs suicide, bullying prevention laws](#) – WSLs
- [2 Virginia laws address mental health, bullying in schools](#) – WTOP
- [McAuliffe signs bills on suicide awareness, bullying investigations in Virginia schools](#) – InsideNova

5. *Governor McAuliffe signs Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Continue Funding the Chesapeake Bay Program*



TAKEAWAYS:

- [What are the details of this announcement?](#)

PRESS:

- [State leaders oppose federal pullback from Bay cleanup](#) – Bay Journal
- [Chesapeake Bay Watershed States Call for Federal Support](#) – Associated Press
- [Regional leaders press to keep money flowing into Bay preservation efforts](#) – WTOP

In Case You Missed It

- [Governor, Mayor skydive in to kick off patriotic festival](#) – 13 NewsNow
- [Veterans care center in Virginia Beach to be named after local Vietnam, Afghanistan veterans](#) – The Virginian Pilot
- [Editorial: Positive signs on tolling fees](#) – The Virginian-Pilot
- [Grads walk toward success](#) – Westmoreland News
- [McAuliffe Signs Wireless Broadband Deployment Bill](#) – Multichannel News
- [Editorial: Mapping path toward safety](#) – Daily Press

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Charlotte Gomer
Office of Governor Terence R. McAuliffe
Press Assistant
Charlotte.Gomer@governor.virginia.gov

From: Gomer, Charlotte (GOV) <Charlotte.Gomer@governor.virginia.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2017 8:47 AM
Subject: Press Clips 6.9.2017

Virginia News - VPAP Clips

Press Clips

06.09.2017

Governor McAuliffe

1. [State leaders oppose federal pullback from Bay cleanup](#) – Bay Journal
2. [Amazon Web Services to bring up to 1,500 new jobs to Fairfax](#) – Associated Press
3. [Grads walk toward success](#) – Westmoreland News
4. [McAuliffe Signs Wireless Broadband Deployment Bill](#) – Multichannel News
5. [Amazon creating 1,500 new jobs in Fairfax County](#) – FOX5
6. [McAuliffe announces Mexican trade agreement, jabs Trump](#) – Associated Press
7. [Amazon Expanding Its Operations In Fairfax](#) – FairfaxNews

Media Clips

8. [Gov. McAuliffe announces expansion of Amazon Web Services in Fairfax County](#) – WJLA
9. [Gov. McAuliffe signed a resolution yesterday setting goals to protect the Chesapeake Bay](#) – WBAL

These media clips are for internal use only – do NOT distribute or share the link anywhere else please

State leaders oppose federal pullback from Bay cleanup

Resolution calls for continued funding, despite cuts proposed by Trump, as restoration begins to show results

Amid encouraging signs that the Chesapeake Bay's health is on the upswing, state leaders of the restoration effort called Thursday for Congress not to let the Trump administration pull back from the federal-state collaboration.

At the annual meeting of the Bay Program's [Executive Council](#), the governors of Maryland and Virginia, plus officials from the four other Bay watershed states, the District of Columbia and the [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#) adopted a resolution appealing to President Donald Trump and Congress to "continue the current level of federal support."

The fate of the long-running cleanup hangs in the balance, they warned.

“Let me be very clear,” said Virginia [Gov. Terry McAuliffe](#), who was ending a two-year term as head of the council, “without our important partnership at the federal level, there is no chance, no chance, that we would meet the 2025 requirements that were put upon us.”

The U.S. [Environmental Protection Agency](#) coordinates the Bay Program, but the Trump administration has said it wants to eliminate it and other regional cleanup initiatives as part of a 31 percent cut in the EPA’s budget. The White House has also proposed deep reductions in other federal agencies and departments that assist the effort.

The EPA administrator is the federal government’s representative on the Executive Council, but Scott Pruitt was in Rome Thursday attending the G-7 international economic meeting. In his place was Kenneth Wagner, Pruitt’s senior advisor for regional and state affairs and a fellow Oklahoman.

Wagner told other council members that the EPA is “committed to continuing to provide the technical assistance and the support that makes the [Chesapeake Bay Program](#) work, and is committed to being a full partner.”

When asked to square that statement with the Trump administration’s proposal to slash federal Bay funding, Wagner responded that the president’s budget is “just a starting point.” He said EPA officials are fully committed to working with Congress to determine the right amount of funding to “empower” states to do environmental protection. When pressed, he said it’s “not really our decision” how much money the Bay restoration gets.

The EPA did not sign the resolution with other council members, citing laws which prohibit it from adopting advocacy statements.

But state officials at the meeting made it clear they believed ending or dramatically curtailing the federal role would derail nearly 34 years of effort which they said in the last few years has produced improvements not seen in decades.

“We’re at a tipping point, and it will take all of the Bay jurisdictions, and our federal partners working together to continue the great progress that we’ve made,” said Maryland [Gov. Larry Hogan](#), who inherited the council chairmanship and hosted the meeting in the State House in Annapolis.

The Bay states have been laboring since 1983 with the federal government’s help to restore the Chesapeake’s water quality. The Bay has long been plagued by algae blooms and a “dead zone” that starves fish, crabs and shellfish of the oxygen they need. After repeatedly missing past cleanup goals, the EPA in 2010 established a more enforceable “pollution diet”

that gives the states and district until 2025 to take all of the steps needed to control the nutrient and sediment pollution that fouls the Bay's water.

In the last year, there's been a drumbeat of positive reports about Bay conditions, including remarkable water clarity in some areas, and the rebound of underwater grasses to their greatest extent in decades. Plus, there was no dead zone last summer. The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science recently graded the Bay's ecological health a 'C' last year, with the highest combined scores for water quality, habitat and fisheries that it's gotten since the cleanup effort began.

"The nutrient diet agreed to by the Executive Council and enforced by the federal government is working," Walter Boynton, a longtime estuarine ecologist with UM's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, told the group.

After years of study and struggle to find effective remedies, the estuary is "close to a tipping point," Boynton said, when continued cleanup efforts will start to yield increasingly greater results.

"We are moving forward," he concluded, adding that "we haven't crossed the finish line yet, but we are getting there."

Boynton noted that the Bay cleanup effort is widely regarded as a model for restoring damaged ecosystems because of its investment in research and water quality monitoring and the enduring collaboration between states and the federal government.

Others, while hailing the signs of progress, cautioned that much more needs to be done, especially as the region as a whole is not expected to meet an interim cleanup goal it had set for the end of this year.

All told, the federal government is pouring an estimated \$500 million into the Chesapeake restoration, much of it in grants and technical assistance to states, local governments, farmers and community groups.

But without the \$73 million that the EPA received this year for the Bay Program, McAuliffe warned, "certain states" would not be able to reach their pollution reduction targets.

"Financial support of this is not an option — it's a requirement," said Patrick McDonnell, secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, who represented the commonwealth at the meeting. He described recent activities by his state to "reboot" its lagging cleanup efforts, funded at least in part with federal money.

As the council met inside the State House, environmental activists and Democratic state lawmakers staged a rally outside calling on Hogan, a Republican, to join the Climate Alliance, a group of 12 states - including Virginia, Delaware and New York from the Bay watershed - that have pledged to adhere to the international greenhouse gas reduction agreement reached in Paris. Trump recently announced the United States would withdraw from the pact. The group also called for Hogan to “stand up to Trump” on his proposal to slash Bay funding.

Hogan, who did not support Trump’s election and has been reluctant to speak publicly about him since, said he didn’t see the point of joining the [Climate Alliance](#). He contended that Maryland already is ahead of most states in pledging to reduce greenhouse gases. He said he had spoken by telephone last week with Pruitt to express his disapproval of Trump’s decision to leave the Paris accord in addition to the president’s proposal to zero out funding for the Bay Program.

McAuliffe, Hogan and others vowed to press the case for maintaining full Bay funding with Congress, which is expected soon to begin drawing up spending bills for the next year.

“We are beginning to see the fruits of our labor, but we know that our next steps to better manage agriculture and stormwater runoff, in particular, will likely be our toughest,” said Virginia Del. Scott Lingamfelter, vice chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative advisory body that’s party to the Bay restoration agreement.

“Now is not the time to allow ourselves to be distracted or defunded,” Lingamfelter added. “We all need to remain true to this endeavor together... If we do this right, if we can restore this great resource, it will be the most important restoration project in the world. If we do it right, other estuaries that are in trouble in this world will see the benefit of our wise strategies.”

After the meeting, William Baker, president of the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), said that he believes the restoration effort won’t succeed if the states are left to do it on their own, without any help or pressure from the federal government.

“You can’t manage the Bay by individual state actions,” he said. “EPA is the glue that binds all the states together.”

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Charlotte Gomer
Office of Governor Terence R. McAuliffe
Press Assistant
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