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JEFFREY C. MCKAY
CHAIRMAN

Board Matter

Letter to Governor Youngkin Regarding Proposed Agency Relocations

Jointly with Supervisor James Walkinshaw

March 4, 2025

The proposed relocation of federal agencies from the National Capital Region poses a significant threat to Virginia's economy, workforce, and the operational efficiency of federal agencies. Northern Virginia is home to over 175,000 federal employees, including thousands of contractors who depend on the stability of these agencies. More than 80,000 of those federal workers live in Fairfax County. Federal contract investments in Virginia exceed $108 billion, with Fairfax County alone receiving over $41 billion in federal funding in FY2024. The potential relocation of these agencies would have profound negative impacts on our region and on our County, including job losses, economic instability, and the erosion of institutional knowledge critical to effective government operations.

Furthermore, these relocations would weaken the agencies themselves, resulting in inefficiencies, delays, and a reduction in the quality of services provided to the American public. Past relocations have led to workforce attrition and operational challenges that ultimately cost taxpayers more in the long run. To be clear, our Board of Supervisors does not oppose finding efficiencies in federal spending, as this is a practice we employ constantly. Last year's budget was approved with over $30 million in savings and reductions and we are currently reviewing $60 million in proposed efficiencies and reductions in the FY2026 budget that is being considered. However, we do that with full transparency, with the community at the table, with the direct participation of the impacted agencies, and with thorough analysis so that we can understand all impacts and protect our dedicated and talented workforce.

Fairfax County is doing all we can to support our impacted residents. We have established a resource page and are sharing information through all communications channels. We are holding a series of committee meetings beginning on March 11 with economic development experts and private sector representatives to develop a clear understanding of the full depth of impact. Our Economic Development Authority has enlisted third party support to conduct a thorough economic analysis. I am using every opportunity to speak publicly in support of Fairfax County residents.

The Board of Supervisors urges Governor Youngkin to take immediate action and advocate against these relocations to protect Virginia's workforce and economy. To date, he has not taken a stand against these moves, despite their significant negative consequences for Virginia. Just the opposite: he has told us that this is what America voted for, that the downsizing isn't wrong, and that the cuts are painful but necessary.

Therefore, I move that the Board of Supervisors approve sending the attached letter to Governor Glenn Youngkin, expressing our opposition to the proposed federal agency relocations and urging him to speak out against the Trump Administration's plans due to their negative impact on Virginia's economy and on the effectiveness and efficiency of federal agencies. The letter also contains an invitation to the Governor to meet with our full Board of Supervisors anytime and anywhere to further discuss this pressing issue.

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JEFFREY C. MCKAY
CHAIRMAN

March 4, 2025

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

Subject: Request to Oppose Federal Agency Relocations That Threaten Virginia's Economy and Workforce

Dear Governor Youngkin:

On behalf of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I write to express deep concern over the proposed relocation of federal agencies from the National Capital Region, a move that would have devastating consequences for Virginia's economy, workforce, and the ability of federal agencies to efficiently and effectively carry out their missions.

As you know, Northern Virginia is home to more than 175,000 federal employees, including thousands of employees and contractors whose livelihoods depend on the stability and presence of these agencies. Relocating federal agencies from our region would impact not only the employees working at those agencies, but the private sector contractors who are the backbone of our economy. Federal government contract investments in Virginia exceed $108 billion, with Fairfax County alone receiving over $41 billion in federal funding in FY2024. These investments fuel our local economies, sustain small businesses, and provide critical employment opportunities across the Commonwealth. If agencies relocate from the region, many contractors will likely do the same.

The planned relocation of federal agencies would not only disrupt the lives of thousands of Virginia residents but also weaken the agencies themselves by stripping them of the institutional knowledge and expertise concentrated in this region. Furthermore, such relocations would lead to inefficiencies, delays, and a reduction in the quality of services provided to the American public. History has shown that previous agency relocations have resulted in workforce attrition and operational challenges that ultimately cost taxpayers more in the long run.

To be clear, our Board of Supervisors does not oppose finding efficiencies in federal spending, as this is a practice we employ constantly. The FY2025 budget was approved with approximately $33 million in savings and reductions and we are currently reviewing $60 million in proposed efficiencies and reductions in the FY2026 budget that is being considered. However, we do that with full transparency, with the community at the table, with the direct participation of the impacted agencies, and with thorough analysis so that we can understand all impacts and protect our dedicated and talented workforce.

Fairfax County is doing all we can to support our impacted residents. We have established a resource page and are sharing information through all communications channels. We are holding a series of committee meetings beginning on March 11 with economic development experts and private sector representatives to

develop a clear understanding of the full depth of impact. Our Economic Development Authority has enlisted third party support to conduct a thorough economic analysis. I am using every opportunity to speak publicly in support of Fairfax County residents.

In contrast, your statements – telling people they are getting what America voted for, that downsizing isn't wrong, calling the process painful but necessary – are doing harm to our shared constituents. We urge you to call on former President Trump to halt these reckless relocations and to stand with Virginia's workforce in protecting the economic stability of our region. You must tell the President that he is wrong, as past Governors have done when Virginia's economy is threatened. **We also request that you brief our Board on your efforts, to date and planned, to support Virginians as they face this unprecedented assault. Our Board is willing to make time to host you here in Fairfax County or travel to Richmond.**

Fairfax County and Northern Virginia are the economic engine of the Commonwealth, comprising 42% of Virginia's GDP, a figure that has grown recently. 22% of Virginia's taxable income comes from Fairfax County residents. The massive state budget surpluses that you are currently planning to spend come, in large part, from Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. The Administration's actions threaten the economic prosperity that previous Virginia leaders of both parties have worked to build.

We look forward to your strong advocacy in keeping these agencies rooted in our region and stand ready to assist you when and if you are willing to stand with our shared constituents.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay