

April 29, 2022

Dear Fairfax House of Delegates Delegation:

We are writing to express our deep concern and disappointment with the recent action taken by the Democratic Caucus to remove Democratic Leader Eileen Filler-Corn from her position.

While we respect the confidential nature of the vote taken, we have been surprised to learn that members of the Fairfax delegation might have supported removing from leadership the first-ever Speaker of the House of Delegates to come from Fairfax County. Her historical installation as Speaker lifted up so many in our community, but this action represents a significant threat to their and Fairfax County's interests in Richmond and the clout we were gaining and rightfully deserved.

As you are all aware, Fairfax County's relationship with the General Assembly and the Commonwealth of Virginia is unique. Over the years we have learned that few in Richmond understand the extent to which Fairfax County and Fairfax County taxpayers underwrite the services provided across our great Commonwealth. It has never been more important to ensure Richmond makes sound investments in the education, human services, and transportation needs of Fairfax County. Speaker and Leader Filler-Corn, as well as our delegation, have been leaders in making sure these issues and needs are brought to the forefront.

Her bold leadership, along with your courageous efforts, ushered in a long list of key policies that have allowed Fairfax County to move forward on long-overdue reforms, including collective bargaining for local employees, a prevailing wage ordinance for county contracts, and the banning of guns from our libraries and rec centers.

Because of the investments we've made, Fairfax County will continue to be the economic engine of our Commonwealth. But because of the action taken by the Democratic Caucus, the opportunity to partner with the General Assembly and make more progress for our shared constituents is far less clear than it was at this time last week.

As you consider your path forward, we urge you to reflect upon the value of what we had – a Democratic Leader from our community who understands our community.

We remain proud to partner with you, our state delegation, on matters vital to our constituents. We have made so much progress in the past several years.

Our Board knows that the landscape in Richmond has changed after the last election, but we also know that we can make continued progress. In that vein, we urge you to continue to ensure that Fairfax County's influence and priorities remain a focus in Richmond and beyond. That should be our first job - and our shared constituents deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. McKay
Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Penelope A. Gross
Vice Chair, Mason District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

James Walkinshaw
Braddock District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Walter Alcorn
Hunter Mill District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

John Foust
Dranesville District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Daniel G. Storck
Mount District Vernon Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Dalia Palchik
Providence District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Kathy Smith
Sully District Supervisor
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors