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[www.goochlandva.us](http://www.goochlandva.us)

October 31, 2024

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Attention: Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund  
Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management  
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219

### **RE: Letter of Support for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Application**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support PlanRVA's application for a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant. The proposal to develop a Regional Flood Resilience Plan, including project recommendations, and to update the Flood Aware mapping tool are critical initiatives that promise to significantly and positively impact our community's preparedness and resilience in the face of flooding.

Our region is no stranger to the damaging impacts of flooding. Creating a Regional Resilience Plan is a proactive and strategic step toward ensuring the safety and well-being of our communities in the future. Goochland County adopted updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) effective October 10, 2024 that illustrate the best estimate of floodways and floodplains from historical knowledge and predictive models. We also recognize that events without precedent cannot be predicted with certainty and that planning for resilience provides for dynamic environmental conditions.

Goochland County is particularly invested in the following benefits of developing a Regional Flood Resilience Plan.

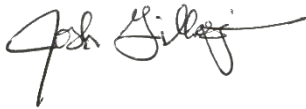
1. **Enhanced Preparedness:** A Regional Flood Resilience Plan will help us better understand our region's specific risks and vulnerabilities. It will guide preparing for and responding to floods, reducing potential loss of life and property damage.
2. **Economic Resilience:** By mitigating flood risks and enhancing resilience, our region will be better equipped to maintain economic stability and attract investment. This plan will foster an environment that is conducive to sustainable growth and prosperity.
3. **Project Recommendations:** The Plan will call out specific resilience-oriented projects for each locality, which will help us prioritize issues and incorporate them into our regular funding cycles.
4. **Access to Additional Funding:** Securing the DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant will provide essential financial resources for an effective planning process, and will

position us to apply for future implementation funding from both DCR and other opportunities.

We appreciate PlanRVA taking the lead on this important initiative. They have established regional trust and respect by convening stakeholders on climate resilience, community preparedness, and hazard mitigation projects and plans. We will offer our support as needed throughout the development of the Regional Flood Resilience Plan.

We urge the DCR to consider and approve the grant application submitted by PlanRVA strongly. Developing a Regional Flood Resilience Plan is a crucial step towards securing a safer, more resilient future for our region. By supporting this initiative, we invest in our community's well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability. We look forward to the positive impact that this initiative will have on our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Gillespie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Josh" and last name "Gillespie" clearly distinguishable.

Josh Gillespie, AICP  
Deputy County Administrator