EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

LEGISLATIVE POINTS OF CONTACT
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Policy and Campaigns Manager, Water and Land Conservation
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ACHIEVING TWO PERCENT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES
Virginia’s natural resource agencies have and continue to do great work. By increasing the percentage of the general fund spent on natural resources to 2%, we will be able to strengthen and continue the progress we have made toward cleaner air and water, healthier soils, improved habitats for fish and wildlife, and more lands for the citizens of the Commonwealth to enjoy.
Zachary Sheldon // The Nature Conservancy // zachary.sheldon@tnc.org
Anna Killius // James River Association // akillius@jrava.org
Danielle Simms // Virginia League of Conservation Voters // dsimms@valcv.org

EXPLORING DEDICATED FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION
While Virginia’s existing programs have achieved many successes, insufficient and inconsistent funding levels impede our efforts and threaten the progress we have made. States across the country have implemented a variety of funding mechanisms, as well as different ways to direct the additional revenues. It is time that Virginia begins to take a serious look at what options are viable within the Commonwealth and where the revenues would be best spent.
Zachary Sheldon // The Nature Conservancy // zachary.sheldon@tnc.org

PROTECTING VIRGINIA’S LANDSCAPES
Virginia needs to step up its investments in land conservation. Otherwise, Virginia will continue to lose the lands that support the backbone of Virginia’s economy: agriculture, forestry and tourism. Without providing additional funding, Virginia will miss out on the opportunity to grow the 197,000 jobs that depend on our existing outdoor recreation industry.
Dan Holmes // Piedmont Environmental Council // dholmes@pecva.org
Nikki Rovner // The Nature Conservancy // nrovner@tnc.org
Kate Wolford // Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley // kwolford@shenandoahalliance.org

PROTECTING HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
Virginia hosts a rich array of historic, archaeological, and cultural resources, arguably more than any other state. From Chief Powhatan’s capital at Werowocomoco and the Jamestown colony, to the battlefields of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War, to under-recognized historic African American schools and cemeteries and sites related to the struggle for Civil Rights, these places tell the story of our Commonwealth and our nation. Protecting these resources is essential to what makes Virginia a great place to live, work, and visit, and supports the Commonwealth’s two largest industries, agriculture and tourism.
John D. Hutchinson // Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation // jhutch@svbf.net
Adam Gillenwater // American Battlefield Trust // agilenwater@battlefields.org
Elizabeth Kostelny // Preservation Virginia // ekostelny@preservationvirginia.org

ENSURING RIGHTFUL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP THROUGH THE UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT
It is recommended that the UPHP be adopted as a separate, parallel statute that applies only when the property to be partitioned meets the definition of “heirs property” contained in the UPHPA. The old law would continue to apply to all other partition actions.
Ebonie Alexander // Black Family Land Trust // ebonie@bflt.org
Parker Agelasto // Capital Region Land Conservancy // parker@capitalregionland.org

INCREASING ACCESS TO TRAILS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Every dollar spent building and maintaining trails, making bike lanes safer, and making parks of any kind more accessible to the public is an investment with significant return. Coordinating the vast outdoor recreation assets of the Commonwealth, marketing them effectively and ensuring access for all takes resources. The Department of Conservation and Recreation must be provided with these resources to effectively empower and support local communities.
Andrew Downs // Virginia Trails Alliance // adowns@appalachiantrail.org
Champe Burnley // Virginia Bicycling Federation // champe_burnley@hotmail.com

MAXIMIZING BENEFITS AND MINIMIZING IMPACTS OF UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR
Now that Virginia has set the wheels in motion for increased use of utility-scale solar, it is important that policymakers have the foundation for best practices to maximize the benefits and minimize the impacts.
Dan Holmes // Piedmont Environmental Council // dholmes@pecva.org
Hannah Coman // Southern Environmental Law Center // hcoman@selcva.org

CONSERVING VIRGINIA’S NATURAL LANDSCAPES