BOOSTING SMART GROWTH

For too long we have poured our money into car-centric growth that increases traffic and sprawl while ignoring Virginians’ most basic need: quality, affordable housing close to jobs, retail, and other essential destinations. Smart growth offers us the chance to undo that damage. By investing in mixed-use, walkable, and transit-oriented communities, we can reduce harmful vehicle miles traveled, expand affordable housing, and grow with a development model that is both environmentally and financially sustainable.

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ENSURING THE RESILIENCY OF FLOOD-PRONE COMMUNITIES

Virginia has begun taking much-needed steps to address our communities’ growing vulnerability to flood events. By increasing funding for critical programs, updating key projections and standards, and developing guidelines that ensure the effectiveness of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund, the Commonwealth can demonstrate national leadership in promoting community resilience.

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BRINGING MORE SMALL SCALE SOLAR TO OUR COMMUNITIES
Building distributed solar in our communities should be a priority for Virginia as we pursue the transition to carbon-free electricity. Distributed solar projects can and should benefit all Virginians, including low-income consumers and communities of color. These projects will harness the power of private capital to create jobs, save money for customers and taxpayers, and reduce the need for utility-scale generation.

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INCREASING ACCESS TO BIKING AND WALKING THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH
Virginia has made great strides to integrate walking and biking into the state’s transportation system, but more needs to be done in order to make active transportation safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities. Providing a dedicated source of state funding to invest in safer pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and providing local jurisdictions with additional slots to submit non-motorized safety and infrastructure projects as part of SMART SCALE would help make biking and walking both safe and accessible throughout the Commonwealth.

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ENSURING EVERY VIRGINIAN HAS ACCESS TO PARKS AND GREEN SPACES
Virginians need daily access to parks and green spaces to thrive, and we must ensure communities that have inadequate access receive adequate access. Virginia’s natural resources and transportation agencies can play a meaningful role in promoting the equitable distribution of parks and green spaces by supporting the creation of accessible and inclusive parks and public lands. By ensuring Virginians have access to parks and green spaces in their daily lives, we will promote healthier and resilient communities.

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INCREASING SUPPORT FOR TRAILS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
While Virginia’s trails and parks are important to both state and local economies, public health, and community development, funding and support has not been adequate to meet the demand. Virginia should invest more in its precious, natural resources so all can experience its benefits.

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