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July 30, 2015

The Honorable R. Creigh Deeds
25th State Senate District
General Assembly Building, Room No: 430
P. O. Box 396
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Senator Deeds:

I am writing once again on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of Albemarle County because we remain deeply troubled by the continued increase in unfunded state mandates coupled with funding shortfalls in programs and positions that are the responsibility of state government. These mandates and shortfalls increasingly require us to use local revenue to shore up what should be the state's obligations and we find this acutely challenging because of the significant pressure it places on our local real estate rate which is our primary revenue source to deliver local government services.

As you will remember from our December 2014 meeting, you asked that each time we encountered a new example of state mandates or cost shifting, we share it with you because you are often unaware what state regulatory agencies require of us once a bill you pass is signed into law. State agencies are not considering the fiscal impact on local government resources when they choose the manner of implementation and as they continue to create more rules and regulations.

Our newest example concerns amendments made to the Special Conservator of the Peace Program (SCOP) which requires new applicants or those seeking reappointment to undergo a background check performed by a state or local law enforcement agency. This change has increased the workload of our police department without funding to support the new mandate.

Besides this newest example, we have also included an attachment that documents the growing list of recent items we have previously shared with you. And, as always, we send our thanks to you for your hard work representing us in the General Assembly.

Respectfully,


Jane D. Dittmar
Chair

cc: Albemarle County Board of Supervisors