



# County of Roanoke

## Board of Supervisors

P. O. BOX 29800  
5204 BERNARD DRIVE  
ROANOKE, VA 24018-0798

**David F. Radford, Chairman**  
Windsor Hills Magisterial District  
**Phil C. North, Vice Chairman**  
Hollins Magisterial District

**Martha B. Hooker**  
Catawba Magisterial District  
**Paul M. Mahoney**  
Cave Spring Magisterial District  
**P. Jason Peters**  
Vinton Magisterial District

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam  
Governor of Virginia  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

We, the members of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, are unanimously writing to thank you for your leadership during the unfolding and resolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, and urge you to consider a regional approach to reopening the economy as soon as possible. As we all know, the COVID-19 pandemic has taken a substantial toll on the lives of everyone. While your issuance of restrictive executive orders was necessary, we also recognize the significant financial burden the orders' restrictions are now placing on our citizens and business owners.

Our small businesses are disproportionately affected by Executive Order No. 53. Requiring non-essential businesses to close has resulted in a huge increase in unemployment claims. According to recent data through the Virginia Employment Commission, our region's unemployment rate is estimated at 14.8%. Clearly, the most impacted industries include hospitality, entertainment, retail, and repair and personal care services.

We are eager to get our businesses open and our citizens want to go back to work so they can provide for themselves and their families. We urge you to give them that opportunity under carefully controlled conditions. We are listening closely and acting appropriately to what our public health experts are saying in regard to flattening the curve. It is clear that there is a lower health risk in Southwest Virginia compared to other parts of the state. The best arrangements for reopening our region should be with approval of the health experts but please give us the options for ingenuity, experimentation and adaptation.

OFFICE:  
(540) 772-2005

FAX:  
(540) 772-2193

VOICE MAIL:  
(540) 777-6399

E-MAIL:  
bos@roanokecountyva.gov

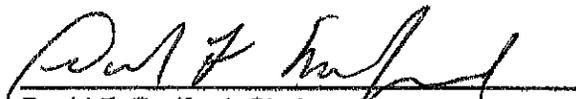
May 1, 2020

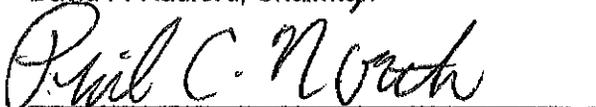
Page 2.

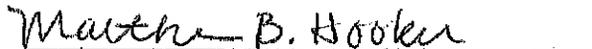
We are confident that our businesses can reopen in a safe and sanitary manner. They can follow the same health and safety guidelines adopted by the essential businesses that are currently open. We also trust that our citizens will be personally responsible in practicing preventive measures, such as social distancing and good personal hygiene. Our region is resilient and can conduct business safely.

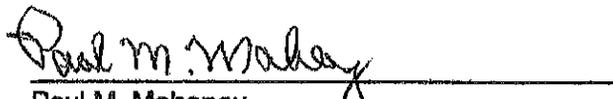
Again, we urge you to act now by allowing for the reopening of our region so that our citizens and our businesses can begin to safely transition back to a normal state of activity. We thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David F. Radford, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phil C. North, Vice-Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha B. Hooker

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul M. Mahoney

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
P. Jason Peters



**APPOMATTOX COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

P.O. Box 863, Appomattox, VA 24522 Phone: (434) 352-2637  
www.AppomattoxCountyVA.gov

---

**RESOLUTION OF APPOMATTOX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**WHEREAS**, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution reads: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed," and,

**WHEREAS**, Article 1, Section 13, of the Constitution of Virginia provides "that a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power;" and,

**WHEREAS**, certain legislation introduced in the 2019 session of the Virginia General Assembly, and certain legislation introduced in the current session of the United States Congress could have the effect of infringing on the rights of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current Governor of Virginia has stated that he intends to endorse and pass into law legislation that is unconstitutional as it pertains to the rights enumerated in the US & Virginia Constitution.

**WHEREAS**, the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors is concerned about the passage of any bill containing language which could be interpreted as infringing the rights of the citizens of Appomattox County to keep and bear Arms or could begin a slippery slope of restrictions on the Second Amendment rights of the citizens of Appomattox County, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors wishes to express its deep commitment to the rights of all citizens of Appomattox County to keep and bear Arms; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors wishes to express opposition to any law that would unconstitutionally restrict the rights under the Second Amendment of the citizens of Appomattox County to bear arms; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors wish to express its intent to stand as a Sanctuary County for Second Amendment rights and to oppose, within the limits of the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia, any efforts to unconstitutionally restrict such rights, and to use such legal means at its disposal to protect the right of the citizens to keep and bear arms, including

## **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR GOVERNOR TO “OPEN” VIRGINIA**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ralph S. Northam has, in his response to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, closed all “non-essential” businesses across the Commonwealth of Virginia until April 24, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ralph S. Northam has since extended his orders, thereby keeping all “non-essential” businesses closed until May 10, 2020, at which point he will re-evaluate; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ralph S. Northam’s decision to categorize and close “unessential” businesses across the Commonwealth is deemed unacceptable by the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors since every business in Appomattox is essential to the overall economic and cultural vitality of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ralph S. Northam’s decision to categorize and close “unessential” businesses across the Commonwealth is also deemed unacceptable due to the haphazard manner in which the closings were applied, resulting in the public questioning why some businesses have been allowed to remain open while others have been forcibly closed; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ralph S. Northam’s decision to categorize and close “unessential” businesses across the Commonwealth is furthermore deemed unacceptable because such action is contrary to Article 1, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia, which states “That all power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without consent of the representatives of the people, is injurious to their rights, and ought not to be exercised”; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ralph S. Northam’s decision to designate all of Virginia as an effected area requiring the quarantining or isolation of all persons within the Commonwealth is in violation of Section 32.1-48.05(B)(ii) of the Code of Virginia which states that the Board of Health shall “provide procedures to assure that any quarantine or isolation is implemented in the least restrictive environment.”

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors does hereby officially call on Governor Ralph S. Northam to lessen the restrictions on the citizens and businesses of Virginia by May 1, 2020 and allow the economy to begin recovery from the havoc wreaked during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors does hereby join the Appomattox business community and others across the Commonwealth calling for Virginia to “reopen” for business.