



ROBERT M. "BOBBY" DYER
MAYOR

City of Virginia Beach

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June 24, 2021

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

Dear Governor Northam:

I am writing today to thank you for the actions you have taken thus far to support and enhance our recovery efforts, and to encourage you to continue the momentum by ending enhanced jobless benefits as soon as possible. Waiting for the September 6 federal cutoff will be a huge detriment to businesses and residents of the Commonwealth and will be an especially difficult hurdle for Virginia Beach. Not only will it remain difficult for businesses to increase staffing levels, but continued short staffing at hotels, restaurants and businesses leads to subpar service levels and a slower recovery from the pandemic.

I sincerely appreciate the swift action you took to lift the pandemic restrictions and open our beaches as soon as it was safe to do so. Those extra days served as an integral part of social and financial recovery for tourists, residents, and businesses as they were able to enjoy and benefit from Memorial Day weekend. It gave our local economy a much-needed boost to begin what is still a challenging tourist season and provided residents and visitors the opportunity to gather again at their favorite spots to enjoy and celebrate.

It was a pleasure to see you and an honor to introduce Secretary Healy at the event at Harvest Restaurant a few weeks ago at the announce of your "Return to Earn" initiative. It is irrefutable that the hospitality industry in the City of Virginia Beach needs every tool available right now in order and overcome the enormous operational and financial challenges of the pandemic. As you are well aware, getting those businesses that were able to survive the pandemic to thrive again and getting employees back to work go hand-in-hand, and we are indeed at a critical crossroad with the tourist season now upon us.

The City of Virginia Beach desperately needs your help to keep this momentum going. I am asking that you follow the bold leadership of the 26+ states who have chosen to halt enhanced jobless

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benefits in order to entice workers to return to the workforce. The sun is shining, jobs are plentiful, and we are ready to move forward. I urge you to give us the tools and incentives to do so.

Should you require any additional information to consider in making this decision, I would be pleased to provide it.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bobby Dyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bobby" being more prominent than the last name "Dyer".

Robert M. "Bobby" Dyer
Mayor, City of Virginia Beach

c: Secretary Megan Healy, Ph.D.
Members of Virginia Beach City Council