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June 11, 2025

Mr. Alan Gernhardt, Esq.
Executive Director
Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council
201 N. Ninth St., 4th Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Alan:

I hope this message finds you well. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling conflict, I will be unable to attend the upcoming Meetings and Records Subcommittee meetings scheduled for June 16, 2025.

While I regret that I will not be able to participate in person, I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is interested in the issues assigned to both subcommittees. In particular, VACo remains supportive of Loudoun County's efforts to explore and advance reforms to emergency meeting protocols under FOIA. As the Council considers these matters, we believe that additional flexibility for local governments during emergency situations is an important step to ensure that public bodies can respond effectively while maintaining appropriate levels of transparency and public trust.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if any questions arise during the meetings or if additional information from VACo would be helpful to the Council's deliberations. We appreciate the Council's thoughtful work on these important issues and look forward to continued engagement as the subcommittees' work progresses.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Jeremy R. Bennett
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Virginia Association of Counties

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