



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
*Office of the Governor*

Terence R. McAuliffe  
Governor

July 28, 2015

The Honorable William J. Howell  
Speaker of the House  
P.O. Box 8296  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404-8296

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.  
Member, Senate of Virginia  
P.O. Box 6205  
Williamsburg, Virginia 23188

The Honorable Richard L. Saslaw  
Member, Senate of Virginia  
P.O. Box 1856  
Springfield, Virginia 22151-0856

The Honorable M. Kirkland "Kirk" Cox  
Member, House of Delegates  
P.O. Box 1205  
Colonial Heights 23834

The Honorable David J. Toscano  
Member, House of Delegates  
211 East High Street  
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Dear Legislative Leaders:

I am writing with respect to the order of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia dated June 5, 2015, in the case of *Page v. Virginia State Board of Elections*, which order requires the General Assembly to complete the redistricting of the Commonwealth's congressional districts by September 1, 2015. On July 16, 2015, I issued a writ for a Special Session commencing August 17, 2015, in order to give the General Assembly the time needed to comply with the order.

As we prepare for this Special Session, it is my hope that we complete congressional redistricting quickly, fairly and in a manner consistent with the principles of democracy and

equal representation that are integral to the fabric of our Commonwealth and country. The court's order to remedy the unconstitutional gerrymander of our congressional lines presents an opportunity for both chambers of the General Assembly to work together and produce a nonpartisan map that reflects the true makeup of our Commonwealth.

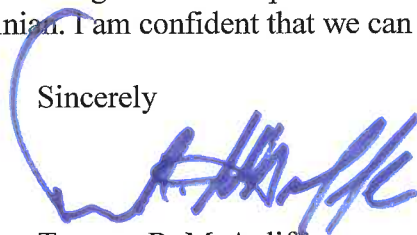
It is my hope that in working together we adhere to the principles identified by nonpartisan redistricting advocates like Virginia2021, such as the use of objective data to determine district lines and genuine transparency and public input into the process.

To this end, I have asked the Democratic leadership of the Senate and the House of Delegates to compose a congressional district map that values equal representation, compact and contiguous districts and the importance of communities of interest ahead of partisan political interests. I have also asked them to publicly release proposed redistricting plans as they are completed and drafted into legislative language. I would make the same request of the Republican leadership.

Additionally, I propose that during the week of August 3, we meet here in Richmond – with leadership and members designated by leadership – to forge compromise on a plan that is agreeable to the General Assembly and can be reviewed quickly by the public and our congressional colleagues. This should minimize the length and cost of the special session, as well as the disruption it will have on General Assembly members and their families.

My administration stands ready to work closely with you to pass a fair, nonpartisan and geographically-balanced congressional map that encourages more competitive elections, and the best possible representation for every single Virginian. I am confident that we can achieve that goal.

Sincerely



Terence R. McAuliffe

TRM/kfs

cc: Members, Senate  
Members, House of Delegates