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Ocean Park Civic League
P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach VA 23471

January 31, 2019

Governor Ralph Northam
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Ocean Park Civic League in Virginia Beach. We represent one of the oldest neighborhoods in Virginia Beach, established in 1929, that is located along Shore Drive between the Chesapeake Bay and the Lynnhaven River.

We were delighted to hear about the recent funding for the Lynnhaven River clean-up efforts, and the partnership developed between the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Lynnhaven River Now. We are particularly interested in promoting efforts to create an aquaculture center to raise the oyster spats right here in Ocean Park. There is probably no other area in the Lynnhaven that already has the infrastructure and the type of moving water needed that would make a better match for this project.

There is a bulkhead staging area at the entrance to Lynnhaven Bay that is was used in the construction of the new Lesner Bridge. It would cost the city more to remove it than it did to build it, and although there have been a few suggestions on how to utilize the structure, none has the potential to positively impact the environment as establishing an aquaculture center. This area is also close to Brock Environmental Center, which is home to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's outdoor field education programs that serve Hampton Roads students and teachers. An aquaculture center would be the perfect complement to the programs at the Brock Center.

Ocean Park is asking that the state, the City of Virginia Beach, and the Brock Center establish a partnership to utilize this area as a pioneering effort to locally kick start this effort and grow oyster seedlings. This has the potential to be a pilot program to be used as a model for other Virginia watershed districts.

Please let me know if we can provide any additional information. We look forward to hearing from you.

I can be reached at president@opcl.org or via cell at 757-621-2082.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Broyles, President
Ocean Park Civic League

C: Bobby Dyer, Mayor, Virginia Beach
Jim Wood, Vice Mayor, Virginia Beach
Louis Jones, Bayside District City Councilman
David Hansen, City Manager, Virginia Beach
Ron Williams, Deputy City Manager, Virginia Beach
Todd Solomon, President, Shore Drive Community Coalition
Kal Kassir, Chairman, Bayfront Advisory Commission
Karen Forget, Executive Director, Lynnhaven River Now
Chris Gorri, Brock Center Manager