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United Way of
Southwest Virginia

January 18, 2022

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Governor Youngkin,

I write today on behalf of the citizens of Hurley, Va. Your visit to Hurley within a week of the deadly August 30, 2021 flood gave Hurley residents hope that with a new administration, the government of the Commonwealth would become more responsive to the needs of rural Southwest Virginians. You saw that day a community in which more than 40 homes had been destroyed and around 200 had been damaged.

I am pleased to report that in the weeks and months following your visit, the response from private and not-for-profit sector donors has been heartening. Virginians, and indeed, donors from elsewhere in the country have taken the needs of Hurley's hurting to heart. Volunteers have given of their time and talents. And, the residents of the Hurley community have worked tirelessly to help themselves and each other. Unfortunately, it is not enough to address the millions of dollars in property damage to private homes.

Until today, many in Hurley placed their hope in FEMA. But the federal government today announced, with finality, such aid will not be forthcoming.

While today's FEMA announcement is disappointing, please know United Way of Southwest Virginia is undeterred in our advocacy for the citizens of Hurley. To date, we have worked aggressively to raise more than \$500,000 to help citizens of Hurley repair and rebuild.

In the same spirit, we ask that you direct your administration to immediately make available the Virginia Disaster Relief Fund (VDRF), which was created for just this circumstance, to the Hurley Long-Term Recovery Group, for which we act as fiscal agent. We have been in contact with Shawn Talmadge, your newly-appointed state coordinator of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management since FEMA announced its initial denial in November. He has expressed his support for utilizing the VDRF in Hurley, should FEMA ultimately deny Virginia's request.

The citizens of Hurley waited 20 weeks for an answer from the federal government before being denied. Today, I ask for your timely attention to this important matter, so we may begin working with the Commonwealth to address repair and replacement of the homes, private bridges and other property washed away or damaged in the August 30 flooding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Travis W. Staton".

Travis W. Staton
President & CEO

CC: Shawn Talmadge, Coordinator of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

UNITED WE WIN