

October 3, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin

Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Youngkin:

We write as the representatives of the communities on and around Lake Anna to respectfully request that your biennial budget include **\$1 million annually in each of the next two fiscal years** to continue phosphorus remediation and combat harmful algal blooms (HABs). Sustained funding is essential to protect public health, safeguard tourism and property values, and preserve the economic vitality of this region.

Lake Anna is a 13,000-acre reservoir created in the early 1970s to serve as the cooling reservoir for the North Anna Power Station, a critical asset in ensuring affordable, reliable energy for Virginia families and businesses. The lake stretches across Spotsylvania, Louisa, and Orange Counties and serves as a major economic engine for the region. Its 200+ miles of shoreline include more than 5,000 waterfront and water-access homes, generating millions in property tax revenues. Lake Anna State Park, one of Virginia's largest, attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year with its 3,000 acres of campgrounds, hiking and biking trails, fishing piers, boat launches, and beaches. Beyond the state park, numerous marinas and rental businesses support a thriving tourism economy that contributes millions annually in lodging, dining, and recreation spending.

In recent years, however, Lake Anna has been severely impacted by HABs. These toxic blooms of cyanobacteria pose real health risks to swimmers, anglers, boaters, and pets. Since 2018, the Virginia Department of Health has issued "No Swim Advisories" during peak recreation months, closing large portions of the lake and undermining its value to both residents and visitors.

Your administration and the General Assembly have already taken important steps to address this crisis. With \$1 million appropriated in FY24 and \$750,000 in FY25, remediation efforts have demonstrated measurable success in reducing phosphorus levels, improving water quality, and showing proof of concept for large-scale HAB treatment. This progress would not have been possible without your leadership and the Commonwealth's investment.

But this work is not a one-time fix. HAB remediation requires a consistent, multi-year commitment. At present, no funding is provided for FY26 or FY27, leaving the progress we have made at risk. Without sustained support, HABs will continue to threaten the health of lake users, diminish tourism revenues, and depress property values across three counties.

The Lake Anna community has stepped up to do its part. The Lake Anna Civic Association (LACA) has invested more than \$250,000 through voluntary donations for monitoring and research. While this demonstrates strong local commitment, the scale of the problem requires state partnership to match and build on these efforts.

We therefore respectfully request that you include **\$1 million in each of the next two fiscal years** in your upcoming budget for HAB treatment, mitigation, and remediation at Lake Anna. This consistent funding will protect public health, preserve Virginia's tourism and real estate economy, and ensure that Lake Anna remains a treasured resource for generations.

Based on our conversations with the Lake Anna communities that we represent, we believe this request enjoys the support of the relevant local governments, who we expect will convey their support through separate correspondence.

We thank you for your consideration and are eager to discuss this request with you or your team should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Del. Robert D. "Bobby" Orrock, Sr.



Delegate Phillip Scott



Senator Bryce Reeves



Delegate Hyland F. "Buddy" Fowler, Jr.

Cc: Stefanie K. Taillon, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources