

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

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November 9, 2020

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Northam:

I urge you to reconsider your budget amendment affecting the Nimmo Parkway access project here in Virginia Beach. Eliminating this important transportation project will adversely impact thousands of constituents, effectively putting them and their families in harm's way.

As we all know, coastal resiliency and coastal flooding influence no area in the Commonwealth more than Virginia Beach, Virginia's largest city and biggest oceanfront community. We have experienced far too many flooding events in recent times. At an elevation higher than the existing roads, the Nimmo Parkway project offers a safe and effective means for area residents to evacuate during a flooding event. Right now, the approximately 4,000 residents of Sandbridge have access to their community through only one roadway, Sandridge Road. When this road becomes obstructed, residents must travel through NAS Oceana at Dam Neck.

Last year during a flooding event, the front gate at Dam Neck was closed and only the back gate could be utilized. This placed a tremendous burden on that roadway, putting residents at great personal risk. Governor, our number one priority as legislators is the safety and security of our citizens. As a larger road well above sea-level, Nimmo Parkway will be essential during a time of great need. More residents will be able to evacuate safely and expediently.

Governor, as you are also aware, the Navy is in complete support of this project, which not only provides transportation reliability for Sandbridge residents, but eliminates security and safety concerns for the Dam Neck base. For this and the reasons mentioned above, I ask that you ensure the Nimmo Parkway access project remains in this year's budget.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill DeSteph".

Bill DeSteph