

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

**c/o Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705
Arlington, VA 22201**

November 27, 2023

Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chair, Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Forestry Natural Resources Plan

Dear Chair Dorsey:

C2E2 commends staff for producing a comprehensive draft Forestry and Natural Resources Plan (FNRP) that offers a clear vision with strategic directions and actions that recognizes the importance of our tree canopy and other natural resources as natural capital that requires dedicated investments to provide a host of environmental, health, and economic benefits.

We greatly appreciated the extensive public engagement during the process and responsiveness to comments, resulting in a stronger plan. We believe that staff edits and changes have begun to address previous concerns regarding progress reporting on the implementation of the plan. As a comprehensive plan, we understand that many details must be left to the implementation phase. We support annual reporting on implementation progress towards the plan's goals including inventories in Action 4.1, progress with Tree Equity Areas in Action Step 2.1.1, and policy changes derived from the FNRP's recommendations. C2E2 also encourages developing a virtual dashboard that would include maps and interactive elements to communicate implementation progress on conservation activities to the public.

C2E2 supports the current draft of the FNRP as a major step forward in maintaining and sustaining critical natural resources for Arlington present and future citizens. We look forward to working with the Parks and Recreation Department as they move forward with implementation.

Sincerely



Joan McIntyre
Chair, Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission

CC:

Members, Arlington County Board
Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Bill Eger, Chief Climate Policy and Coordination Officer
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation