

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

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

November 25, 2025

Honorable Takis Karantonis, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Restoration of Arlington's Natural Lands as a Budget and CIP Priority

Dear Chair Karantonis and members of the County Board:

The Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission (C2E2) writes to endorse the letter sent to you from the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) dated November 18, 2025 advocating for continued and potentially increased operating budget and Capital Improvement Plan funding for invasive plant removal and restoration of Arlington's natural lands (copy attached).

At C2E2's November 24 meeting, we voted unanimously to add our support to the PRC letter, applauding the description of the very significant economic importance of Arlington's natural lands along with the history, context, and progress (and lack thereof) to maintain them that has been made with the limited funding available to date. Specifically, we support the request for:

- a) Continued annual operating budget funding for invasive plant removal and native plant work in Arlington County parks at or above the level of the previous year
- b) Expanded and redirection of the \$1.5 million funding in the Capital Improvement Plan under the Natural Resiliency Program to invasive plant removal and native planting projects

We urge the Board to provide budget guidance accordingly to support the enhanced and expedited restoration of the County's natural lands.

Sincerely,



Cindy Lewin
Chair, Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission

Attachment: November 18, 2025 letter from Parks and Recreation Commission and Appendix
cc: Jennifer Fioretti, Assistant County Manager, Climate Policy
Jason Papacosma, Division Chief, Sustainability and Environmental Management, DES