

March 17, 2025

Dear Governor Youngkin,

We are clergy and religious leaders from across Virginia. We respectfully urge you to sign HB 2153, allowing localities to make it easier for property tax-exempt nonprofits (the vast majority of which are congregations) to build affordable housing.

There is a shortage of affordable homes in Virginia, both for rental and purchase. Virginia has a shortage of more than 200,000 homes, and more than 900,000 households are cost burdened by their housing. The high cost of housing affects families in every part of Virginia. At the same time, many faith communities want to help. Congregations own land in localities all over Virginia and are interested in supporting their local communities, and much of that land is under-utilized. This bill supports congregations, localities, and families looking for housing.

This bill does three things. Most importantly, it explicitly grants localities permission to create an ordinance making it easier for affordable housing projects on land owned by congregations and other property-tax exempt nonprofits. Additionally, the bill asks localities to consider property tax-exempt nonprofits in their comprehensive plans as partners in addressing the need for affordable housing. Finally, the bill provides suggestions from the Department of Housing and Community Development on strategies for both ordinances and comprehensive plan updates. Each of these components is incredibly helpful in expanding housing from the faith community.

Isaiah 32:18 claims "My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." Faith communities want to create these peaceful habitations for our communities. HB 2153 would help us do it.

Please support congregations in living our faith. Thank you.

The following pages contain the names of 287 faith leader and clergy signatories.

Clergy's institutions are listed for identification purposes only.





Rev. Dr. Sarah Calvert **District Superintendent,** Mountain View District, United Methodist Church

Rev. Dr. Burdette Robinson **Director of Community** Engagement, Richmond Habitat for Humanity

Reverend Douglas Forrester **District Superintendent,** Valley Ridge District, United Methodist Church

Pastor Kirk Nave **District Superintendent**, Northern Virginia District, United Methodist Church

Reverend Viola Abbitt

Lead Pastor, Coastal Virginia Unitarian Universalists

Ms. Roni Kingsley Clerk, Richmond Friends Meeting

Reverend Russell Heiland **Senior Minister** Unity of Fairfax

Reverend Kevin Agee Presiding Elder, Washington-Virginia District of Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Rabbi Gary Creditor

Board Emeritus, VICPP Temple Beth-El, Richmond

Deacon Chris Barrett Deacon. St. Elizabeth Catholic Church

Dr. Charles Turner Founder, Virginia Muslim Civic League

Rev. Dr. Melissa Long General Presbyter, Presbytery of Eastern Virginia

Ms. Nina Janopaul **Executive Director**, Virginia Episcopal Real Estate Partners

Reverend Mark Wise Chaplain Sacred Well Congregation

Rev. Dr. LaKeisha Cook

Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy Bishop Phyllis Milton Bishop

Virginia Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

> Dr. Doris Martin Clerk Valley Friends Meeting

Bishop E. Mark Stevenson **Bishop**

The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia

Reverend Reuben Boyd Lead Pastor,

Third Street Bethel AME Church

Rev. Dr. Lester Frye President, Baptist Ministers Conference of Richmond and Vicinity

Deacon Laura Douglass President,

Interfaith Association of Harrisonburg-Rockingham

Pastor Charles Comer **Lead Pastor**

Flat Rock Church of the Brethren

Mrs. Marcie Agee Social Justice Chair, St. John's United Church of Christ Henrico Reverend Daniel Albrant Mineral-Mount Pleasant Charge Madison Reverend Ned Alderman
Oaklette UMC
Chesapeake

www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org

Father Randolph Alexander Immanuel Church on the Hill Alexandria Reverend Celeste Anderson Ebenezer Baptist Church -Beaverdam Glen Allen Reverend Eric Anspaugh Central Church of the Brethren Rocky Mount

Rev. Dr. Wayne Arnason
Unitarian Universalist Church of
Charlottesville

Rev. Dr. William Arnold Retired Pastor Richmond Father James Arsenault
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
Richmond

Reverend Scott Bach-Hansen St. Mark's United Methodist Church Manassas Reverend Benjamin Badgett St. Mark's Episcopal North Chesterfield Dr. Dori Baker Forum for Theological Exploration Lynchburg

Rev. Dr. Paul Baker Retired Clergy Farmville Reverend Nicole Childress Ball First Presbyterian Church Richmond Reverend Robert Banse Grace Church Delaplane

Reverend Robin Barge St. Paul UMC Roanoke Reverend Felicia Barwell
Faith Community Baptist Church
Richmond

Reverend Jo Ann Batteiger
Virginia Annual Conference of the
United Methodist Church
Henrico

Pastor Michael Baugham Newsoms United Methodist Church Newsoms Reverend Kelly Bayer Derrick Assistant to the Bishop, Virginia Synod ELCA Roanoke Reverend Lindsey Baynham Freeman Welborne United Methodist Church, Richmond

Reverend Kenneth Beals Retired Pastor Staunton Pastor Josh Beeler Madison Heights Baptist Church Madison Heights Reverend Jo Belser Church of the Resurrection Springfield

Pastor Wallace Benton Faith House of Diverance Suffolk

Deacon Elvira Beracochea St. Christopher's Fairfax Reverend Elvira Beracochea St. Christopher's Fairfax

Rev. Dr. Yvonne Bibbs Sixth Baptist Church Richmond Reverend Tim Bobbitt
First Christian
Church of Alexandria
Alexandria

Reverend Brian Bolton
Shalom Mennonite Congregation
Harrisonburg

Rev. Dr. Jean Bozeman Virginia Synod Norfolk Reverend Theresa Brion St. John's Episcopal Church Williamsburg Rev. Dr. Andy Brock Reliance-Ridings Chapel Winchester

Reverend Jennifer Brothers
Presbytery of the Peaks, PCUSA
Roanoke

Reverend Cynthia Brown
New Life Outreach International
Church
Chesterfield

Reverend Herb Brynildsen
Trinity United Methodist Church
North Chesterfield

Reverend Michael Burnett Hilton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Newport News Reverend Ryan Busby First Baptist Church Danville Danville Deacon John Campbell Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Richmond

Reverend Helen Casey-Rutland Williamsburg UMC Williamsburg Dr. Helen Cassman Ventura St. Andrew Presbyterian Suffolk Suffolk Reverend Kenneth Champagne Lord of Life Lutheran Church Centreville

Pastor Charles Cheek Kingdom United Fellowship Hampton Reverend Denise M Childers Grace UMC Manassas Rev. Dr. Cheryl Clark Retired Pastor Williamsburg

Pastor Judith Cobb First Lutheran, Norfolk Norfolk Rev. Dr. James Cobb Retired Pastor Norfolk Pastor Larry Cochran
Belmont United Methodist
Church
Midlothian

Pastor Donald Coleman East End Fellowship Richmond Reverend Alan Combs First United Methodist Church Salem Dr. Dawn Compton Main Street UMC Lynchburg

Rev. Dr. John Conwell Zion Chester AME Church Petersburg Rev. Dr. Roscoe Cooper III Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church Richmond Rev. Dr. John Copenhaver Professor Emeritus, Shenandoah University Winchester



Deacon Meghann Cotter Micah Ecumenical Ministries Fredericksburg Reverend Barbara Cousar Retired Pastor Danville Reverend Charles Cowen
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Norfolk

Sister Phyllis Cox
Christ Evangelical Lutheran
Church
Greenville

Reverend Alex Creager Stone House Presbyterian Church Richmond Reverend Gwynn Crichton St. Paul's Episcopal Church Richmond

Reverend Rev. Gwynn Crichton St. Paul's Episcopal Church Richmond Elder Barbara Crump Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Glen Allen Dr. Henry Curry Trinity United Methodist Church Mc Lean

Reverend William Davidson
Warwick Memorial United
Methodist Church
Ashland

Reverend Heidi David-Young
Caroline Furnace Lutheran
Retreat Center
Cross Junction

Rev. Dr. Joanna Dietz Community of Faith United Methodist Church Centreville

Rev. Dr. Robert Diggs Tabernacle Baptist Church Petersburg Mrs. Ernestine Dockery-Roy President, Seeds of Promise Community Ministry Henrico Reverend Robert Edwards Bayside Christian Church Norfolk

Canon Linda Farlin
Diocese of Southern Virginia
Norfolk

Minister Rev. Jud Fender Burke United Methodist Church Springfield Reverend Dwala Ferrell Retired Clergy North Chesterfield

Reve. Anne Findlay-Chamberlain St. Paul's United Church of Christ Woodstock Reverend Roberta Finkelstein River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation Alexandria Rev. Msgr. Leigh Finnegan-Hosey
Pediatric and Women's Health
Chaplain, VCU Health
Richmond

Reverend David Finnegan-Hosey
Bon Air Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
N. Chesterfield

Ms. Patricia Fitzgerald Board Chairperson, Wesley United Methodist Church Hampton Reverend Morris Fleischer Newport-Mt. Olivet UMC Christiansburg

Rev. Dr. Anthony Fludd St. John's Church of God in Christ Newport News Reverend Rev. Abi Foerster Community of Faith United Methodist Church Herndon

Reverend Elizabeth Franklin St. Michael's Episcopal Church Arlington



Reverend Melanie Franklin Ebenezer UMC Blue Ridge Reverend Jonathan Fuller Boulevard United Methodist Church Henrico Reverend Nilse Furtado-Gilliam Clarendon UMC Arlington

Reverend Lee Gandiya St. Paul's Episcopal Church King George Dr. David Garth Retired Pastor Charlottesville Reverend Richard Geoghegan Retired Minister Christiansburg

Chaplain Anne Gibbons St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Henrico

Pastor Marvin Gilliam
The Mount Carmel Baptist Church
Richmond

Cantor Frances Goldman Congregation Beth Ahahbah Henrico

Reverend Katie B. Gooch
The Pace Center
Richmond

Elder Anthony "Tony" Goodwin Knox Presbyterian Church Norfolk Pastor Katie Gosswein Edinburg Lutheran Parish Edinburg

Pastor Carolyn Graves Saint Mark UMC Norfolk Rev. Dr. Amy Greene Retired Clergy Richmond Reverend Jon Greene Diocese of SW Virginia Blacksburg

Reverend Kendra Grimes Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church Ashland

Dr. Geoffrey Guns Second Calvary Baptist Church Norfolk Elder Gloria Gurganious-Hicks Discipleship & Evangelism Woodbridge

Reverend Stephanie Hamilton First Presbyterian Church of Richmond Rev. Dr. Youtha Hardman-Cromwell Trinity UMC Orange Rev. Dr. Emanuel Harris Jerusalem Baptist Church Manakin Sabot

Reverend Queen Harris Fifth Baptist Church Richmond Rev. Dr. Taylor Lewis Guthrie Hartman Second Presbyterian Church Richmond Reverend Ricardo Haynes Walmsley Boulevard UMC Midlothian

Reverend John Heck Saint Peters Episcopal Church Callaway Reverend Joe Hensley St. George's Episcopal Church Fredericksburg Rev. Fr. Timothy Hickey, CSSp Our Lady Queen of Peace Arlington



Rev. Dr. David Hindman Retired Pastor Williamsburg Reverend Angeline Hoen Mathews Chapel UMC Hampton Reverend Sherrie Hofmann Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Bayse

Reverend Sara Holben Shenandoah Presbytery Harrisonburg Rev. Dr. Fred Holbrook Presbytery of the James Troy Reverend Vinicent Holland First Baptist Church-Warrenton Warrenton

Rev. Dr. Barry Hollar Centenary UMC Richmond Deacon Dennis Holley Sacred Heart Catholic Church Midlothian

Pastor Jerry Holmes First Baptist Norfolk Suffolk

Reverend Jung Pyo Hong Christ Crossman UMC Falls Church Pastor Edward Hopkins
Wellspring United Methodist
Church
Williamsburg

Reverend Gerald Hopkins Fairfax Presbyterian Mclean

Reverend Susan Hughes Bethlehem UMC Moneta Rev. Dr. Gary Hulme
Pastoral Counseling of Northern
Virginia
Manassas

Ms. Kathy Hutson Lead Usher, Christ the King Abingdon

Reverend Yena Hwang Falls Church Presbyterian Church Falls Church Rabbi Ellen Jaffe-Gill Tidewater Chavurah Virginia Beach Bishop M. J. Jefferson Blessed Hope Baptist Church Richmond

Bishop Peggy Johnson Ebenezer UMC Carrollton Rev. Canon Sheryl Johnson Ginter Park Baptist Church Richmond Reverend Pernell J. Johnson First Baptist Church Midlothian Midlothian

Dr. Keith Jones Shiloh Baptist Church Newport News Minister Steven Jones Shalom Mennonite Congregation Broadway Rev. Dr. Patricia Jones Retired Clergy Christiansburg

Reverend Thomas Joyce Grove Community Church Williamsburg Reverend Susan Karlson
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Charlottesville
Crozet

Reverend Carla Keyes Ginter Park Presbyterian Church Richmond



Reverend Jen Kimball Abingdon Episcopal Church Gloucester Dr. Karla Kincannon Charlottesville First United Methodist Church Charlottesville Reverend Anne Kirchmier St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Newport News

Reverend B.E. Kluttz
The First Presbyterian Church of
Arlington, Virginia
Arlington

Rev. Dr. Anita Laffoon Ginter Park Baptist Church Richmond Rev. Dr. Carlon Lassiter Saint John Baptist Church Williamsburg

Reverend Alan Layman Trinity UMC Chester Dr. Joseph Lee
Bank Street Memorial Baptist
Church
Chesapeake

Rev. Dr. Hyeon Lee White Memorial Church Shawsville

Reverend Keith Lee Dranesville UMC Herdon Reverend William Levwood Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church Stafford Reverend Theresa Lewallen Church of the Resurrection Alexandria

Reverend Barbara Lewis
Concord United Methodist Church
Richmond

Rev. Dr. Carla E. Lightfoot Angel Visit Baptist Church Dunnsville Reverend Beverly Lindsey
St. John's United Church of Christ
North Chesterfield

Ms. Laura Lockledge Charlottesville Friends Meeting Charlottesville Reverend Julia Dorsey Loomis Trinity Episcopal Church, Portsmouth Father Alexander MacPhail Christ Episcopal Church Roanoke

Reverend Karin MacPhail St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church Roanoke Rev. Dr. Zynora Mandon Henrico Ministers Conference & Vicinity Sandston Reverend Annabelle Markey Journeying Together Sterling

Pastor Kenneth Martin Resurrection Lutheran Winchester Rev. Dr. Marcus Martin New Bridge Baptist Church Richmond Reverend Laura Martin Rock Spring UCC Reston

Reverend Joseph Maslanka Mount Hermon United Methodist Church Mechanicsville Reverend Rachel May Calvary United Methodist Church Cape Charles Reverend Anita Mays Lucord Trinity United Methodist Church Lexington



Minister Gary McCollum First Baptist Bute Street Norfolk Virginia Beach Rev. Dr. Janet S. McDonald Retired Pastor Free Union Rev. Dr. James Melson Executive Director, Cornelius Corps Glen Allen

Father Andrew Merrow St. Mary's Episcopal Arlington Reverend Cathy Mims First Lutheran, Norfolk Virginia Beach Reverend Scott Mims First Lutheran Church Virginia Beach

Rev. Dr. Susan Minasian
St. John's United Church of Christ
Richmond

Reverend Robin Mines
Institute for Missions Ministry and
Music
Midlothian

Elder Willie Moody New Calvary Baptist Church Norfolk

Ms. Destiny Moore Founder, Growth Mindsets Palmyra Reverend Steven Moore First Christian Church Falls Church Rev. Dr. Mochel Morris Fredericksburg UMC Fredericksburg

Reverend Nancy Morris Blacksburg Presbyterian Roanoke

Reverend Robert Morriss
UU Congregation of Lynchburg
Forest

Dr. Barbara Myers Richmond Friends Meeting Ashland

Reverend Phil Myers Lynnhaven Colony Congregational UCC Virginia Beach Reverend Phillip Myers Lynnhaven Colony Congregational UCC Virginia Beach Pastor G. William Nabers Retired Pastor Basye

Reverend Amanda Newman Blacksburg UMC Blacksburg Reverend Mandy North Manassas Church of the Brethren Manassas Rev. Dr. Kevin Ogle
First Christian Church of Falls
Church
Falls Church

Rev. Dr. William Olewiler Retired Pastor Fleming Island Reverend Janet Onnie Retired Clergy Staunton Reverend Claire Osinkosky Harrisonburg District Harrisonburg

Reverand Dylan Celec Chaplain, Shenandoah University Winchester Reverend Stephanie Parker United Methodist Church Virginia Beach

Reverend Bob Parks Bethany-Sardis UMC Amherst



Reverend Tiffany Patterson Fredericksburg United Methodist Church Fredericksburg

Reverend Addie Peterson New Horizons Presbyterian Church Norfolk

Reverend Rachel Pierce Massey Cancer Center Hanover

Dr. Herbert Ponder Mount Tabor Baptist Church Richmond

Mr. Jerry Rivers Mt. Siani Baptist Church Roosevelt

Rev. Dr. Archana Samuel Wesley United Methodist Church Hampton

Elder Robert Schminkey Trinity Presbyterian Church Harrisonburg Reverend Joanna Paysour Greene Memorial United Methodist Church Roanoke

Reverend Pamela Philips
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the New River
Valley, Blacksburg

Reverend Samuel Plymale St. Mark's UMC Daleville

Reverend Gayle Porias Cokesbury UMC Alexandria

Minister Pastor Terry Ross Lawrence Memorial UMC Roanoke

Dr. Susan Schall Warren Charge UMC Front Roval

Rev. Dr. Chris Scott The exchange Winchester Reverend Eric Peltz First Presbyterian Church of Hampton Toano

Reverend Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra Westminster Presbyterian Church Charlottesville

> Reverend Jonathan Poarch Eastland UMC Fredericksburg

> > Rev. Dr. Jan Rivero Retired Clergy Charlottesville

Pastor Anna Rullan-Garcia Ravensworth Baptist Church Annandale

Reverend Colleen Schiefelbein St. Martin de Porres Episcopal Alexandria

Reverend Sarah Sealand River Road United Methodist Church Montpelier

Rev. Dr. Patricia Shipley Centenary UMC Richmond Reverend Rochelle Shoemaker Wesley Memorial UMC Charlottesville

Dr. Walter Smith
Presbytery of the Peaks
Lynchburg

Reverend Dawn Marie Singleton Cherrydale United Methodist Church Arlington

Dr. Patricia E Sloan Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula Newport News Reverend Timothy Smith
Skipwith
United Methodist Church
Midlothian



Reverend Donna Smith Prison Chaplain, Indian Creek Correctional Center Emporia Dr. Marcus Stallworth Matthews Chapel UMC Hampton Reverend Susan Steinberg Providence Presbyterian Church Charlottesville

Dr. Frances Stewart Richmond Friends Meeting Richmond Rev. Dr. Jonathan K. Stubbs Bethel Baptist Church Midlothian Rev. Dr. Laura Sugg South Plains Presbyterian Church Charlottesville

Rev. Dr. Charles Summers
Presbytery of the James
Richmond

Mrs. Emily Surratt
East End Fellowship
Richmond

Reverend Charles Swadley Williamsburg UMC Williamsburg

Reverend Paige Swaim-Presley Blacksburg UMC Blacksburg Reverend Kathryn Talley Centenary United Methodist Richmond Reverend Nathan Taylor Salisbury Presbyterian Church Midlothian

Reverend Vanessa Taylor Franklin The Saint Paul's Baptist Church Richmond Reverend ReNe'e Teague Wesley UMC - Hopewell Mechanicsville Reverend Tim Temerson
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Charlottesville
Crozet

Reverend Kathleen Teweles Church of Our Savior Charlottesville Deacon Kathryn Thomas Piedmont Episcopal Church Ruckersville Reverend Susie Thomas
Farmville United Methodist
Church
Farmville

Elder Cathi Thornton Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Richmond Reverend Larry Toney Presbytery of Eastern Virginia Norfolk Reverend C. J. Valenti Faith Lutheran Church Arlington

Rev. Dr. Rob Vaughn Community of Faith United Methodist Ashland Rev. Dr. Kenneth Veazey Lynhaven Collony UCC Virginia Beach Mr. Jack Wall Founder, Bauers-Wall Foundation Floyd

Reverend Ryan Ware Smith Memorial UMC Danville Reverend Kenneth Watkins Imani Christian Ministries Richmond Reverend Rachel Watson Covenant Presbyterian Church (Staunton) Staunton



Reverend Jenelle Watson
Executive Director, Embrace
Centers for Community
Fishersville

Bishop Peter Weaver Retired Bishop Williamsburg Dr. Rebecca Weaver The Gayton Kirk Richmond

Reverend Donna Webster
Perseverance Christian Church
Dundas

Reverend Charles Wickham
Pinnacle Living
Glen Allen

Reverend Ronald Wiersma Burke Presbyterian Church Springfield

Rev. Dr. Maurita Wiggins Valley Community Church Roanoke Reverend Peyton Williams
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Richmond

Ms. Rita Willis Social Action Chair, Third St. Bethel A.M.E. Glen Allen

Reverend Daniel Willson First UCC Chesterfield Chesterfield Elder Joseph Wilson First Presbyterian Church Covington Rev. Dr. Marian Windel Beckford Parish Mt Jackson

Reverend Mary Jane Winter Second Presbyterian Richmond Reverend Sandra Wisco Retired Pastor Charlottesville Reverend Susan Worrell Eastern PA UMC Fairfield

Reverend Daniel Wray Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church Berryville Rev. Dr. Annesto Younger Fairfield Baptist Church Richmond Rev. Dr. Karen-Marie Yust Union Presbyterian Seminary Richmond

Dr. Doris Martin Valley Friends Meeting Mount Solon Ms. Margaret Morris Order of Interbeing, Cloud Floating Free Buddhist Sangha Pastor James Zimmerman Good Shepherd Lutheran Rockbridge Baths