

BIG MONEY OUT

"DEMOCRACY LOSES WHEN BIG MONEY WINS"

October 30, 2020

Dear Speaker Filler-Corn,

Virginia, over the past year, has moved to the forefront of states to pass democracy reform bills. Your extraordinary leadership was instrumental in getting the General Assembly to adopt voting law reforms, enhance women's and LGBTQ's rights and pass police and criminal justice reforms. We are proud of these accomplishments.

It is now time to address campaign finance reform and the corrosive effects that "pay-to-play" has on our legislative process. Virginia is one of only five states with no limits on campaign contributions for individuals, PACs/unions, corporations, or political parties. Meanwhile, the role of big money in politics has become a burning issue both nationally and in Virginia. Disquiet over the growing power of large donors is widespread in both parties, with over [75% of Americans](#) and [85% of business executives](#) agreeing that our campaign finance system is broken. Curtailing the money flowing into our state politics can only serve to make legislators more accountable to voters and serve as an important step in restoring people's trust in government.

With the upcoming resignation of Delegate Joe Lindsey, chair of the House Privileges and Elections Committee, we, the undersigned, ask that his replacement be someone clearly committed to advancing campaign finance reform and spearheading this as part of the legislative agenda for the next General Assembly. Last year, you were quoted on the issue of campaign finance reform at the beginning of your tenure as Speaker as saying "[we'll definitely get back to you as soon as we have ideas and legislation.](#)" We believe now is the time to draw from national norms and best practices to craft effective and fair campaign finance reform for 2021.

The groups that endorse this letter are:

VA Chapter of American Promise

Indivisible Arlington

Activate Virginia

Cindy Cunningham on behalf of VAPLAN

WCC Indivisible Williamsburg

Hunter Mill Huddle

Our Revolution Falls Church

Progressive Democrats of America - Virginia

Indivisible Virginia 11

We of Action (WofA)

Indivisible Virginia

Indivisible Below the Beltway

Virginia Democracy Forward

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Women On Your Left
 Climate Reality Project, NoVA Chapter
 Earth Rise Indivisible
 Indivisible Northern Virginia
 Grassroots Alexandria
 Sierra Club of Virginia
 350 Alexandria
 Indivisible Charlottesville
 Network NOVA
 Herndon Huddle
 Virginia Justice Democrats
 Vienna Neighbors United

NOVA Grassroots
 Fairfax Grassroots
 RepresentUS Roanoke Valley
 Clean Money Squad
 SW Virginia Poor People's Campaign
 Democracy4Change
 Lewinsville Faith in Action
 Sister District DC/MD/VA chapter
 UnKoch My Campus
 New River Valley Indivisible
 Fauquier Indivisible
 VA Dems-Madison Democrats

