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**NANSEMOND INDIAN NATION**

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February 6, 2025

The Honorable Kelly Gee  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable John Littel  
Chief of Staff  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Madam Secretary and Mr. Littel:

On behalf of the Nansemond Indian Nation (“Nation”), we respectfully submit an urgent request for a government-to-government meeting with the Commonwealth of Virginia. This meeting will provide an essential opportunity to establish a framework for meaningful and ongoing consultation between our two sovereigns on matters that directly affect Tribal citizens, lands, cultural heritage, and natural resources.

The Nation seeks to ensure that meaningful and productive conversations between our two sovereigns become a cornerstone of our relationship. Such dialogue honors the principles of mutual respect and cooperation and reflects a shared commitment to addressing challenges together. A structured consultation framework would prioritize early and ongoing communication to address key policy areas affecting Tribal and Commonwealth interests. Establishing these regular, purposeful consultations will foster trust, facilitate problem-solving, and enable us to create equitable and efficient outcomes that benefit all parties.

To facilitate this important dialogue, the Nation proposes the following dates for the initial meeting:

- **Wednesday, February 19, 2025**
- **Thursday, February 20, 2025**
- **Tuesday, February 25, 2025**

We are open to alternative dates that work for the Commonwealth’s leadership and would like to schedule this meeting at the earliest opportunity to lay the groundwork for meaningful and ongoing engagement.

For generations, the Nansemond Indian Nation has worked to protect its cultural, historical, and environmental heritage. Meaningful consultation ensures that Tribal voices are not only heard

but also actively incorporated into decisions that affect these vital interests. By engaging in government-to-government dialogue early and regularly, the Commonwealth and the Nation can address immediate challenges while proactively planning for long-term solutions. For example, through consultation on permitting processes, we can identify potential barriers and solutions early, streamlining procedures while respecting Tribal sovereignty and preserving invaluable resources.

The importance of this approach is underscored by history. The 1677 Treaty of Middle Plantation, a foundational agreement between Virginia's Tribes and the Crown, established principles of peace, mutual respect, and cooperation that still resonate today. The treaty affirmed Tribal rights to their lands and governance while providing mechanisms for resolving disputes. In the same spirit, the Nation seeks to build a collaborative relationship with the Commonwealth that reflects the values of partnership and mutual accountability.

We also recognize the critical role of the Tribal Ombudsman in this process. The Ombudsman can help facilitate discussions, address concerns, and ensure that consultation remains transparent, productive, and equitable. By involving the Ombudsman in these meetings, we can create a structured and collaborative mechanism for consultation, ensuring that all parties are aligned in addressing challenges and advancing shared goals.

The Nansemond Indian Nation firmly believes that what benefits Tribal Nations and their citizens ultimately benefits the Commonwealth as a whole. A government-to-government consultation framework is a vital step toward strengthening our relationship and achieving outcomes that serve the interests of both sovereigns.

In this spirit, we respectfully request a meeting with the Commonwealth's leadership, with participation from the Tribal Ombudsman, to establish a consultation framework and initiate this new chapter in our relationship. We look forward to building a lasting partnership based on trust, mutual respect, and meaningful dialogue.

Sincerely,

*Keith F. Anderson*

Chief Keith F. Anderson  
Nansemond Indian Nation

cc:

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