



Chickahominy Indian Tribe

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Tribal Council

Stephen R. Adkins,
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April 03, 2021

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Dear Members of Virginia's General Assembly We write in support of the Governor's Amendment #10 directly appropriating \$3.5 million from the general fund for the identification and evaluation of a project focused on the preservation of tribal lands of the Chickahominy Tribe and removing language requiring the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation reserve \$3.5 million for the project. We are thankful for the Governor maintaining \$10M for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) that the General Assembly approved in the 2020 Special Session. As you know, the budget passed by the House & Senate "set aside" VLCF funds for this project. While the acquisition of protected land by the Chickahominy Tribe is a worthy project, diverting VLCF funds this way is contrary to the fundamental nature of VLCF as a competitive grant program. It would set a bad precedent for earmarking future projects, potentially preventing a fair process for communities around the state to compete for these dollars. The VLCF grant round announced in February was oversubscribed by over \$7M, and the pre-application round completed in December demonstrated a need of \$80M. We will continue to advocate for increased funding for this program in the future. For now, we thank the Governor for his amendment and ask for your support.

Sincerely

Stephen R. Adkins