



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Office of the Governor

Richard Cullen  
Counselor to the Governor

October 7, 2025

The Honorable Aaron Rouse  
Senate of Virginia  
Chair, Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections  
P. O. Box 2864  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23450  
[SenatorRouse@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:SenatorRouse@senate.virginia.gov)

The Honorable Marcia S. "Cia" Price  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Chair, House Committee on Privileges and Elections  
P. O. Box 196  
Newport News, Virginia 23607  
[DelMPrice@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelMPrice@house.virginia.gov)

Dear Chair Rouse and Chair Price:

Thank you for your letter dated October 3, 2025, addressed to Secretary Kelly Gee. For many years we worked collaboratively with the General Assembly on the appointment process using the regular order as prescribed by the Constitution of Virginia and the *Code of Virginia*. Now, the Democrat majority in the Senate is determined in its attempts to deprive the full General Assembly the opportunity to thoroughly consider the Governor's eminently qualified appointees to our boards and commissions. And instead of using the regular order to properly consider these appointments in January, the Democrat majority instead wants these reports now in order to bypass years of tradition and comity to attempt to deny all 140 General Assembly members their constitutional duty to consider these qualified Virginians.

To be clear, the Virginians who the Senate Privileges & Elections Committee voted against earlier this year include, among others, the former CEO of an international credit card company, the former Acting Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, the former CFO of an internationally prominent private equity firm, and the Vice Chairman of Goldman Sachs. Not one word was spoken in committee about why the Democrat majority would not support them, but privately some of your colleagues have conceded these Virginians were in fact well qualified.

The Honorable Aaron Rouse  
The Honorable Marcia S. "Cia" Price  
October 7, 2025  
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As the Democrat majority takes the position that the General Assembly remains in session, Va. Code § 2.2-406 is clear that these reports are filed only in the "interim between sessions." Therefore, you can understand why we will not be submitting these reports at this time.

Please call me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Cullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Cullen" clearly distinguishable.

Richard Cullen

cc: Kelly Gee, Secretary of the Commonwealth