

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I look forward to seeing you all either in person or virtually on September 6 for our next meeting.

We will meet again in Senate Room 3 beginning at 10 am. Please plan on the meeting lasting to 4 pm again. The Secretary heard your unanimous request to include a representative from the Virginia Animal Control Association and has invited a representative to our next meeting.

In lieu of a formal agenda, I want to lay out a plan for the day in this letter. After the initial pleasantries, I plan to devote the first two to three hours of our meeting to what has been described variously as the “big picture”. How to meet the charge of Chairman Plum to reduce and control the population of free roaming cats and to mitigate the impact of free roaming cats on the Commonwealth’s native wildlife, natural resources and public health. I am hopeful that you will introduce specific proposals into the conversation. I know this is short notice. However, if you could reduce the proposals to one or two sentences and send them to Katie and me before the meeting, it will help us organize the discussion at our meeting. We will begin the discussion by getting all of the ideas out on the table, then go back and evaluate them to see which ones may have a chance of gaining consensus. The second part of our meeting will focus on what a bill authorizing a TNR ordinance might look like. I believe this will help us meet the second part of the Chairman’s charge to harmonize the existing local free-roaming cat population management practices. I know the proponents of SB 1390 are looking at possible changes. I also am aware that Ed Clarke is working on possible parameters within which a locality could adopt a TNR ordinance. I believe the report of the previous workgroup may have some ideas that can be discussed. If you can, it would be helpful to have any ideas reduced to writing and provided to Katie and me before the meeting.

We will again get the ideas out on the table and then start working through them to see which have a chance of gaining consensus.

After these two discussions we will stock of where we are and plan our next steps.

I have heard from a number of folks that they have concerns about the last meeting and how much time we are devoting to each broad topic.

I think it is important to remember that we are trying to solve a problem through facilitated negotiation. In an interest based negotiation, the only way to get to resolution is to meet the varied interests of the stakeholders as much as possible. This requires that we spend time on the interests of all who are part of the discussion.

I am hopeful that we can have a productive discussion on the 9th.