

Dear Chesapeake City Council Members,

As you know, the Chesapeake Alliance Leadership Circle is a pro-business group representing over 80 influential businesses leaders in Chesapeake.

The Chesapeake Alliance was formed in the mid 1980's to provide a voice for the city's business development and growth as a community. The Alliance identifies issues that are of importance for the future development of the city in both economic and social matters.

In this context, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Chesapeake Alliance Leadership Circle is very much in support of re-establishing city-managed curbside recycling. The action certainly impacts both social matters (quality-of-life) and business advantages for the City. Additionally, it creates an opportunity for us to support Chesapeake businesses operating in the market segment. Key points to consider:

- **Sustainability, environmental stewardship, and a circular economy** are re-established in our City.
- **A return to curbside recycling would create jobs** – Recycling creates 7X more jobs than landfill waste management.
- **Create tax revenue for the City and support our corporate partners** – In 2020, Tidewater Fiber Recovery of Chesapeake (TFR) selected Chesapeake for their \$80 million pulp mill which created 65 new jobs. The mill converts mixed paper and cardboard boxes into 300,000 tons of pulp per year which is used to create other paper products.

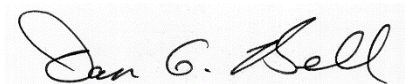
TFR chose Chesapeake for their site largely because we were a city committed to recycling and we offered “critical elements for success: excellent logistics, experienced partners and a plentiful recycled feedstock.” The state and the Port of Virginia have invested heavily in the project. The City also committed \$200,000 through the Chesapeake Economic Development Grant Program. Governor Youngkin stated, “Total Fiber Recovery positions Chesapeake as a major participant in this important sector.” Mayor Rick West stated, “The opportunities this facility provides in new jobs, capital investment, and environmental stewardship will pay dividends for years to come.”

When the City discontinued the curbside recycling program, our “recycled feedstock” has dwindled significantly which has put a burden on this valued corporate partner. The abrupt decision to end the curbside recycling contract two years early put another valued corporate partner at risk—TFC Recycling, a member of the Chesapeake Alliance.

The principal reason for this letter is to offer our support for the return of curbside recycling (under the correct, supportable conditions) for residents of Chesapeake, and to provide opportunities for our valued corporate partners operating in this sector.

Sincerely,

**David K. Ropp, Chairman**



**Dan Bell, Executive Director**