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To Present and Prospective Members of the South County Federation:

As your elected representative, I wanted to share with you my thoughts on the value of being a member of the South County Federation. Federations of citizens associations are comprised of many local neighborhood organizations that work collectively for the betterment of their community and our area. Whether influencing land use decisions, lobbying for transportation improvements or monitoring zoning changes, these organizations are a collective voice for the communities they serve, and act to protect and preserve the interests of those engaged.

I have been fortunate to work with the South County Federation and the Lorton community for over 16 years. I have witnessed first-hand the Federation's unique ability to successfully influence legislators, mobilize residents on important issues and get things done. My partnership with the Federation allows me to be a more effective representative of the community and to achieve community goals through engagement with the five Federation committee chairs (Education, Environment, Land Use, Safety and Transportation).

For the past 29 years, the Federation has proven its ability to work collaboratively and speak as a strong voice. It is an invaluable resource to me and is the first organization I look to for guidance when Lorton issues arise. Our collaborative efforts result in community driven decisions when resolving issues like transportation or land use challenges. A perfect example of this is the Federation's participation in the extraordinary multi-year effort that the Federation coordinated to close the privately held Lorton landfill. The Federation took a lead role in organizing and educating the community about the opportunities, challenges and long-term impacts to the residents and the County. These efforts make a positive difference for all of us and resulted in the closure of the landfill.

The Federation also provides an opportunity to build new relationships with other community members and associations, as well as direct access to myself and my staff and monthly updates on community projects and County Board actions. Learning about one another's needs leads to a better understanding of each other's issues and provides an even stronger voice when working with legislators. Working collectively often results in bringing positive change to the quality of life not only in one community, but to the whole of the Mount Vernon District.

If your civic association is already a member of the Federation, I congratulate you and urge you and your members to actively participate in the issues that are facing Fairfax County. If your association is not yet a member of the Federation, I encourage you to join TODAY and get involved. It is your involvement that will continue to bring about positive change for all of us who live, work, educate and recreate in Fairfax County.

I take this opportunity to thank the South County Federation for their collective leadership in advocating for issues on behalf of the community, for their endless volunteer hours, and for continuing to foster collaboration, communication and a better community.

Respectfully yours in public service,

Dan Storck

Supervisor, Mount Vernon District Fairfax County Board of Supervisors