

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4607

July 9, 2018

Dear Attendees:

Thank you for being in Williamsburg today for this important conference at the Virginia Coastal Policy Center. I'm sorry I can't be with you in person.

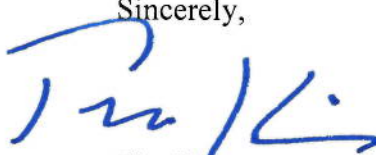
Virginia coastal residents know that climate change is a today issue, not a tomorrow issue. From century-old tide gauges in Norfolk Harbor to modern statistical models, the trends are undeniable. Sea levels are rising. Floodplains are expanding. Extreme storms and floods are becoming more frequent and more violent. And the effects are felt from military installations like Naval Station Norfolk to cities like Norfolk and Virginia Beach to rural areas like the Eastern Shore. We must heed these indicators and take decisive steps to make our infrastructure more resilient. We must also strive to make our nation's energy sector cleaner and less carbon-intensive tomorrow than today.

Fortunately, in Virginia we aren't just observing the problem but are spearheading solutions. Brilliant minds at institutions like William & Mary and Old Dominion University are hard at work developing the data and tools we need to gain deeper understanding of these challenges. Policymakers are coordinating across jurisdictional and partisan boundaries to turn that data into action. I am proud to support this effort through my role on the Senate Armed Services Committee, working to support the resilience work of the Department of Defense. I have also partnered with colleagues on legislation like the *BUILD Resilience Act*, to authorize groundbreaking new investment in resilient municipal infrastructure.

There's much more to do, but we are making progress. Someday, I hope to be an elderly ex-Senator who can tell my grandchildren that we took action to defend the world they and their grandchildren will live in, before it was too late. With the hard work of those of you in attendance today, I am optimistic that we will rise to this challenge together.

Best wishes for a productive conference today.

Sincerely,



Tim Kaine