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March 16, 2017

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe  
Governor of Virginia  
Post Office Box 1475  
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

As Hampton Roads mayors, we write to express our hope that before you leave office early next year, you can achieve the goal you emphasized for Fort Monroe in late 2014. The *Daily Press* reported your ambition "to connect the two federally protected parcels" of the national monument (national park) on Fort Monroe's Bayfront east side to make one "contiguous national monument."

Such a unified national monument would incorporate all or most of the area shown in red in the illustration at [FortMonroeNationalPark.org](http://FortMonroeNationalPark.org), where light brown shows that sensible redevelopment would still take place on the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel side of the retired Army post.

As you have further emphasized, Fort Monroe's special place not just in American history, but in world history, comes from the roles it played in the 1619 start of slavery and the 1861 beginning of slavery's demise. This historic landscape, containing its famous stone fortress, had been a National Historic Landmark since 1960 when two disconnected parts of it were designated a national monument in 2011.

We recognize Hampton's special stake in Fort Monroe's future. Indeed, all of Hampton Roads has a special stake. As stewards of the birthplace of the United States of America, all Virginians are the stewards of our nation's most important history. We believe that all Virginians' stake can best be respected and used to the highest advantage in just the way you envisioned in 2014. We note that the National Parks Conservation Association and the Civil War Trust have publicly agreed.

"OLDEST CONTINUOUS ENGLISH-SPEAKING SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA - 1610"

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A unified national monument at Fort Monroe could become the new fourth node in the elevation of Virginia's Historic Triangle to its Historic Diamond. And in that role Fort Monroe will be perfectly positioned to serve as a national venue for conversations and policy development to heal America from the legacy of slavery. With the 1619 remembrance in 2019 approaching fast, we urge you and all other Virginia leaders to take the steps necessary to achieve a unified Fort Monroe National Monument, and we offer to help in any way we can.

Respectfully,



Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor of Hampton



McKinley L. Price  
Mayor of Newport News



Kenneth Cooper Alexander  
Mayor of Norfolk



William D. Sessoms, Jr.  
Mayor of Virginia Beach