Good morning. Please accept the following as Virginia Poultry Federation’s comments on the proposed additions to the revisions to the permanent COVID-19 standard. Our stance on the proposal remains generally the same as reflected in the comments we previously submitted (attached).

In this regard, we want to reiterate our support for the Governor’s proposed language concerning compliance with CDC guidelines.

Secondly, we are concerned about the provision on page 27 of the most recently published proposal, which states:

“If an employee has a known exposure to someone with COVID-19, the employee must follow any testing or quarantine guidance provided by a VDH public health professional.”

We believe it could be problematic to give individual VDH representatives the power to dictate to an employer testing and quarantine requirements. This is too much discretion for an individual health official to use their professional judgement, without any parameters, to require protocols that could have a dramatic impact on the operations of a private business. We ask that you reconsider this provision.

Thank you for your consideration of our viewpoints on this matter.

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