



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Matt Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Julie V. Langan
Director

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August 14, 2020

Mr. Jamie Bosket
President
Virginia Museum of Historic & Culture
P.O. Box
Richmond, VA

Dear Jamie:

On behalf of the Commission for Historical Statues in the U.S. Capitol, of which I am an ex-officio member, I am writing to formally request that the Virginia Museum of History and Culture (VMHC) accept ownership of the Robert E. Lee statue upon its removal from the Statuary Hall Collection at the U.S. Capitol. This request is made in response to a unanimous vote of the Commission at its August 7, 2020 meeting at which it was agreed that the VMHC is the most "suitable state, local, or private nonprofit history museum in the Commonwealth for placement of the Robert E. Lee statue."

As you may know, on July 24, 2020, Governor Northam formally submitted a request to the Architect of the U.S. Capitol for approval by the Joint Committee on the Library for the immediate removal of the statue. The Commission is awaiting a response to this request, which I am confident will be forthcoming though I cannot predict exactly when. It is my understanding that prior to removal, ownership of the statue will be transferred to the Commonwealth of Virginia, at which time the Commonwealth would be in a position to transfer ownership to the VMHC.

I realize that the VMHC will have many questions and that there remain a good many details to work through. At this point, all I can say with certainty is that the Commission will assume full responsibility for the removal and transportation of the statue to Richmond. Should the VMHC accept the Commission's request, we can begin the process of planning for the statue's arrival and working through the details of an agreement that would transfer ownership to the VMHC.

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I look forward to discussing with you the Commission's request and responding to any questions and concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie V. Langan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Julie V. Langan
Director

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