Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all who are gathered for the Virginia Coastal Policy Center's (VCPC) 6th Annual Conference.

This event fosters crucial discussions on the preservation of Virginia's coastal resources and communities. Our Eastern Shore is more than a source of natural beauty and tourism; it is home to a prosperous economy and hard-working Virginians. However, the future vitality of Virginia's Eastern Shore is at risk due to climate-related threats. Climate change will continue to jeopardize the prosperity of coastal communities if we do not adapt our industries and infrastructures.

The VCPC makes an invaluable contribution to the conversation on the climate-related challenges that the Eastern Shore faces. Your efforts have assisted in bringing policymakers, community members, and coastal stakeholders together, laying a foundation for unified and effective action. Mitigating the effects of climate change through coastal hardening, flood prevention, and ecological preservation are critical to maintaining the commercial and communal well-being of the area. By increasing awareness about threats to Virginia’s natural resources and the farms, fisheries, and aquacultures they support, we can stress the need to take decisive action to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for the potential consequences.

The United Nations International Panel on Climate Change’s recent climate report predicts a concerning future for Virginia’s agriculture industry and for the health of the Eastern Shore. The adverse results of climate change are not specific to Virginia; the implications are widespread and will have a global impact. American leadership in the fight for climate action is critical if we are to secure a future of prosperity and security for our families.

I commend the VCPC for bringing stakeholders together today to discuss “Building a Resilient Virginia.” I wish you the very best for a successful and informative event.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Warner
MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator