

Matthew J. Strickler

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WORK EXPERIENCE

January 2018 to Present – Secretary of Natural Resources and Chief Resilience Officer, Commonwealth of Virginia

Management – Oversee the operations of five state agencies with nearly 2,200 employees, three separate law enforcement divisions, and a combined annual budget approaching \$500 million. Directly manage 13 politically-appointed executives: two deputy secretaries, five agency directors, five deputy directors, and the Special Assistant to the Governor for Coastal Adaptation and Protection. Serve as Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee and Chairman of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees.

Policy development and execution – Propose and implement executive actions to further the Governor's policy objectives, including establishing the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice, the Virginia Coastal Master Planning Framework, and the *ConserveVirginia* land conservation initiative. Draft, negotiate, and ensure passage of legislation, including bills to clean up coal ash dumps, reduce agricultural water pollution, and join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Executive decision support – Serve as the Governor's primary advisor on issues of environmental and natural and cultural resources policy, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, pollution prevention and reduction, wildlife and fisheries, land conservation, Chesapeake Bay restoration, coastal protection, and historic resources.

April 2012 to January 2018 – Senior Policy Advisor and Professional Staff Member, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources

Policy development – Served as lead policy advisor for Democratic House Members on issues related to fisheries, wildlife, and oceans, including the impacts of climate change on oceans and coasts, economic and national security implications of illegal fishing and wildlife trafficking, and protection of marine mammals and endangered species.

Legislative decision support – Developed briefing materials and conducted briefings for Democratic staff and House Members on the Natural Resources Committee. Generated vote recommendations for Members on legislation related to fisheries, oceans, and wildlife. Served as lead staff for organizing and executing Democratic strategy for Committee hearings, floor action, and legislative initiatives.

Staff Management – Supervised up to two professional, full-time postgraduate marine policy fellows in addition to multiple shared full and part-time staff assistants and interns. Coordinated with communications staff to ensure media coverage of issues before the Committee. Coordinated with partners from universities, non-profits, industry, and government to build support for policy initiatives.

Nov. 2008 to April 2012 – Legislative Assistant, Senator Ralph S. Northam (Virginia's 6th District)

Legislative decision support – Development of legislative proposals; research and drafting; legislative strategy; coordination of groups in support of legislative initiatives. Led efforts to enact bills related to sea level rise assessment, protecting youth athletes from concussions, and improving Chesapeake Bay water quality.

Media relations – Drafting and dissemination of media releases, op-eds, and newsletters; development of online/social media content; building relationships with local, regional, and state level journalists.

Community outreach – Representing Senator Northam at public events; meeting with constituent advocates and government relations professionals; constituent casework.