



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND  
November 25, 2009

HARVEY B. MORGAN  
POST OFFICE BOX 949  
GLOUCESTER, VIRGINIA 23061  
NINETY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES (CHAIRMAN)  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE AND LABOR

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine  
Office of the Governor  
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

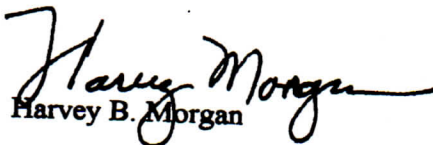
I write in support of the petition for clemency recently submitted to you on behalf of Joe Giarratano. I was one of many members of the General Assembly who urged former Governor Wilder to commute Mr. Giarratano's death sentence in 1991 because of serious questions raised about his guilt. Those same questions remain unanswered.

It is my understanding that Mr. Giarratano's efforts at exoneration have been thwarted in part by actions of the Commonwealth that deprived him of an opportunity for DNA testing of the biological evidence from his case. The constructive manner in which Mr. Giarrantano has made use of his time, particularly on behalf of other inmates, during more than 30 years of incarceration reflects well on his motivation. I am further advised that, if released, Mr. Giarrantano will have employment and a support system available.

Mr. Giarratano's petition for a conditional pardon seeking his supervised release from prison is a reasonable request that merits your serious consideration. In considering Mr. Giarrantano's petition for clemency, I encourage you to take into account the apparent lack of evidence, the destruction of crime scene evidence that could exonerate him, as well as the time served.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Harvey B. Morgan