

LOUDOUN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

February 1, 2007

Honorable William J. Howell
Speaker, House of Delegates
General Assembly Building
P.O. Box 406
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Speaker Howell:

As Chairman of the Loudoun County Economic Development Commission, I am writing to ask you to provide leadership in developing an effective solution to Virginia's long standing transportation issues. Our Commission of thirty-three members urges you to do this in this session.

Recently, our Commission carefully considered and then adopted the attached resolution. We urge the General Assembly *"to support the continued growth and success of the Commonwealth by unifying behind a plan that generates new, dedicated, and sustainable transportation funding that is adequate to meet the needs of a leading state in a globally competitive economy."*

The Commission strongly supported the inclusion of the word "new" as it relates to funding transportation solutions. We understand that new funding means that additional revenue will need to be raised and that taxes or fees are the likely way to do this, which may well increase the cost of goods or services. Business leaders are problem solvers and we are confident that the returns are well worth the additional costs. Certainly, the cost of political gridlock is ever increasing transportation gridlock in our region. This is something the Commonwealth cannot afford if it is to remain among the top tier of America's best places to live and do business.

As Virginia's fastest growing jurisdiction, we are deeply concerned about this region's transportation gridlock and its negative implications for our continued growth. We are very proud of Virginia and its tradition of citizen legislators who have helped the Commonwealth lead the nation in so many areas. We ask that you represent us well – citizens and businesses alike – and deliver a solution that continues Virginia's tradition of tackling even the thorniest problems boldly through civil discourse, compromise, and a commitment to progress.

Sincerely,



Tamar Datan Johnston
Chairman
Loudoun County Economic Development Commission

Attachment: Commission Resolution adopted January 5, 2007