



NORTHERN
VIRGINIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Voice of Business in Northern Virginia™

2020
LEGISLATIVE
AGENDA

LETTER FROM THE CHAMBER



Dear Legislator,

For more than 90 years, the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce has been recognized as The Voice of Business in Northern Virginia™. In continuing that tradition, we have worked with business leaders, top institutions, other business organizations, and a diverse group of elected leaders over the past year to stress the importance of regionally-focused collaboration throughout Northern Virginia.

In 2019, Northern Virginia experienced major economic investments from the private and public sector. It is clear that momentum is with us now, and our world-class business community is leading the way. As a regionally-focused Chamber, we are equipped to harness this energy and focus it on addressing our region's challenges now and into the future.

To keep this period of economic growth going, we must work together to build upon those key strengths that will enhance our entire region:

- a pro-business economic climate
- a highly skilled and educated workforce
- a robust, multimodal transportation network
- a regulatory and tax structure that fosters equitable growth, and much more.

The Northern Virginia Chamber's 2020 Legislative Agenda outlines the business community's position on key regional issues including education and workforce development, transportation, research, regional collaboration, right-to-work, public-private partnerships, healthcare, and energy. We believe the Northern Virginia Chamber's relationship with you and your colleagues in addressing and investing in these issues is a partnership to grow our region and our Commonwealth.

Our advocacy portfolio includes full-time representation in Richmond during the General Assembly session, a robust Political Action Committee (NOVABIZPAC), and the facilitation of engagement between leading business executives and elected leaders throughout the year. The Chamber hosts policy focused events of all sizes throughout the year. From intimate forums with local, regional, and statewide leaders, to our largest events, like our "Top of the Ticket" Debate, broadcast statewide in partnership with NBC Washington and the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. We also have direct advocacy relationships with regional institutions like Northern Virginia Community College. There are countless ways for our members to engage with Virginia's most influential policy makers.

We hope you will find this document helpful as you consider the critical issues facing the region and the entire Commonwealth. The Northern Virginia Chamber and its member companies are committed to working with you to ensure that the region and the Commonwealth remain one of the best places to start or grow a business.

Sincerely,



TODD ROWLEY
Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia
Chamber of Commerce



JULIE COONS
President and CEO
Northern Virginia
Chamber of Commerce

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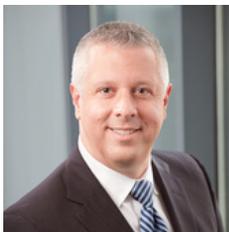
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JULIE COONS
Northern Virginia
Chamber

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CO-CHAIR



MATT MCQUEEN
Peraton

CO-CHAIR



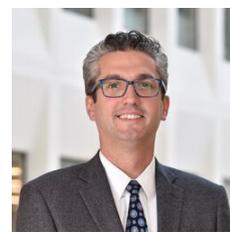
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Pennoni

NOVABIZPAC CHAIR



SCOTT MCGEARY
Washington Gas

CHAMBER LIAISON



CLAYTON MEDFORD
Northern Virginia
Chamber of Com-
merce

NOVABIZPAC

Ensuring that Northern Virginia has a voice in the legislative process, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce originally established the Northern Virginia Business Political Action Committee (NOVABIZPAC) in 2002 to support Virginia legislators and policymakers who champion a pro-business agenda. NOVABIZPAC's mission is to utilize the resources of the regional business community to assure the future successes of key business issues.

One of the most influential PACs in the Commonwealth of Virginia, NOVABIZPAC uses the Northern Virginia Chamber's legislative agenda as its guide as to which candidates to support in Northern Virginia and across the state.

NOVABIZPAC is administered by a Board of Trustees composed exclusively of members of the Northern Virginia Chamber. The Board is comprised of business leaders familiar with the regional business community's agenda and top priorities. NOVABIZPAC

also receives strategic advice and oversight from the Northern Virginia Chamber's Board of Directors. NOVABIZPAC meets regularly throughout the year, interviewing and evaluating candidates and elected officials.

NOVABIZPAC allows the Northern Virginia regional business community to collectively organize its political action to elect candidates who share the Northern Virginia Chamber's goal of job creation and a business-friendly economic climate.

The success of NOVABIZPAC is not possible without the effective participation of the Northern Virginia business community in the political process and the financial support of Northern Virginia Chamber members.

Member contributions enable NOVABIZPAC to support worthy candidates and ensure the Northern Virginia Chamber has a voice in the policy and legislative process. To learn more, please visit: www.novabizpac.org.

TRUSTEES

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AIMEE GILROY Raytheon Corporation	WILLIAM WALSH Hirschler
TOM GREESON ReedSmith	BOB WEBB Miles & Stockbridge
	KEDRICK WHITMORE Venable, LLP

VIRGINIA REPRESENTATIVES



GOVERNOR



Ralph Northam (D)
The 73rd Governor of the
Commonwealth of Virginia

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Lieutenant Governor
Justin Fairfax (D)

ATTORNEY GENERAL



Attorney General
Mark Herring (D)

SENATORS



Senator
Mark Warner (D)



Senator
Tim Kaine (D)

REPRESENTATIVES



Congressman
Rob Wittman
(R-VA-1)



Congresswoman
Abigail Spanberger
(D-VA-7)



Congresswoman
Elaine Luria
(D-VA-2)



Congressman
Don Beyer
(D-VA-8)



Congressman
Robert Scott
(D-VA-3)



Congressman
Morgan Griffith
(R-VA-9)



Congressman
Donald McEachin
(D-VA-4)



Congresswoman
Jennifer Wexton
(D-VA-10)



Congressman
Denver Riggleman
(R-VA-5)



Congressman
Gerry Connolly
(D-VA-11)



Congressman
Ben Cline
(R-VA-6)

VA SENATE

Senator John Bell (D)
13th Senate District

Senator Jill Vogel (R)
27th Senate District

Senator Richard Stuart (R)
28th Senate District

Senator Jeremy McPike (D)
29th Senate District

Senator Adam Ebbin (D)
30th Senate District

Senator Barbara Favola (D)
31st Senate District

Senator Janet Howell (D)
32nd Senate District

Senator Jennifer Boysko (D)
33rd Senate District

Senator Chap Petersen (D)
34th Senate District

Senator Dick Saslaw (D)
35th Senate District

Senator Scott Surovell (D)
36th Senate District

Senator David Marsden (D)
37th Senate District

Senator George Barker (D)
39th Senate District

Delegate Mark Keam (D)
35th House District

Delegate Ken Plum (D)
36th House District

Delegate David Bulova (D)
37th House District

Delegate Kaye Kory (D)
38th House District

Delegate Vivian Watts (D)
39th House District

Delegate Dan Helmer (D)
40th House District

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D)
41st House District

Delegate Kathy Tran (D)
42nd House District

Delegate Mark Sickles (D)
43rd House District

Delegate Paul Krizek (D)
44th House District

Delegate Mark Levine (D)
45th House District

Delegate Charniele Herring (D)
46th House District

Delegate Patrick Hope (D)
47th House District

Delegate Rip Sullivan (D)
48th House District

Delegate Alfonso Lopez (D)
49th House District

Delegate Lee Carter (D)
50th House District

Delegate Hala Ayala (D)
51st House District

Delegate Luke Torian (D)
52nd House District

Delegate Marcus Simon (D)
53rd House District

Delegate Karrie Delaney (D)
67th House District

Delegate Ibraheem Samirah (D)
86th House District

Delegate Subas Subramanyam (D)
87th House District

VA HOUSE

Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy (D)
2nd House District

Delegate Wendy Gooditis (D)
10th House District

Delegate Danica Roem (D)
13th House District

Delegate Elizabeth Guzman (D)
31st House District

Delegate David Reid (D)
32nd House District

Delegate David LaRock (R)
33rd House District

Delegate Kathleen Murphy (D)
34th House District

TRANSPORTATION & INTERCONNECTIVITY



POSITIONS:

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports performance-based, prioritized, and cost-effective regional transportation solutions focused on congestion relief, economic development, time savings, and enhancing public safety.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports efforts to protect and restore regional transportation dollars, as well as ensure the prompt and effective implementation of transportation projects.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports a safe, reliable, and sustainable Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) system, that is efficiently operated and well-governed.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports an integrated regional bus system that serves the entire National Capital Region and is efficient, reliable, affordable and safe.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports efforts to protect Virginia's share of WMATA's regional dedicated capital funding. Additionally, the Chamber supports the federal extension and continued state match of Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) funding tied to enhanced oversight and accountability and continuation of existing commuter benefits.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports amendments to the federal Wolf Act that would require arbitrators to consider WMATA ability to pay in any binding arbitration decision.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports establishing sustainable, long-term transportation funding.

The Northern Virginia Chamber opposes any legislative efforts that would alter the Public-Private Transportation Act's (PPTA) current review and selection process or limit the authority or ability of the Office of Public Private Partnerships to choose projects consistent with state, local and metropolitan transportation plans.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports the ability of the Commonwealth to select and approve transportation projects without the requirement of legislative approval.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments developing thoroughly vetted, metrics-based long-range regional transportation planning for Northern Virginia and the Greater Washington region, including implementation of an objective, regional project evaluation system.



TRANSPORTATION & INTERCONNECTIVITY



The Northern Virginia Chamber supports the use of a performance-based project prioritization process to identify the most cost-effective regional solutions to 21st century transportation challenges with a focus on congestion relief, time-savings and enhancing public safety.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports an upgraded and expanded American Legion Bridge as well as increased Potomac River crossing capacity – specifically, a new northern Potomac River crossing - to ease congestion and improve capacity on the existing beltway and other metropolitan area roads.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports extending the 495 Express Lanes to I-270 & I-95 in Maryland.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports efforts to ensure and protect the integrity of the concepts of Corridors of Statewide Significance for achieving multi-jurisdictional transportation needs.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports fulfillment of existing plans to increase highway and transit capacity on I-66, both inside and outside of the Capital Beltway.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports completion of the DC to Richmond portion of the Atlantic Gateway project, which will unlock the I-95 corridor and build upon the successes of the I-95 Express Lanes.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports future addition of tolling facilities where needed, provided tolling continues to be dynamic based on consistent trip speed per federal law and the revenue from tolling is used to expand the capacity of Virginia's transportation network.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports the on time and on budget completion of the WMATA's Silver Line.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports investment in projects at National Landing previously identified as regional priorities being advanced as a result of the arrival of Amazon HQ2.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports the efforts of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) to promote the use, accessibility and airport compatible development of Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports efforts to diversify the Virginia economy including promoting international trade and improved multimodal facilities throughout the Virginia port system to handle anticipated increase in freight as a result of the Panama Canal expansion.



TRANSPORTATION & INTERCONNECTIVITY



RATIONALE:

Northern Virginia continues to face critical transportation challenges and therefore solving this crisis remains a top priority of the Northern Virginia Chamber and the Northern Virginia business community.

For the majority of our more than 90-year history, the Northern Virginia Chamber has advocated for common sense transportation proposals that achieve congestion relief in the region. With dramatic changes to come in how we interact with personal and public transportation, the Chamber encourages a forward-looking approach to transportation technologies.

Virginia led the region in 2018 by investing in our most critical piece of public transportation – Metrorail. The General Assembly recognized that Metro is a core, statewide asset and supports Virginia’s status as the top state in which to do business.

Metro sits at a critical juncture. Since the system opened in 1976, the Washington region and Northern Virginia have grown tremendously; yet investments and upgrades to the system have not kept up. As the only major transit system in the nation without a dedicated funding source, identifying capital resources for the system’s aging infrastructure remains a challenge.

Preserving Virginia’s dedicated investment in Metro is critical to the more than 300,000 Virginians who rely on Metro to get to work every day. According to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, WMATA, along with VRE, supports an additional 130,500 jobs in Northern Virginia, generating \$600 million each year in General Fund revenue to the Commonwealth. Over the next several years, every major commercial development project planned or under construction in Northern Virginia is in the Metro corridor. With additional local revenue realized through growing development on the Metro corridor, a safe, reliable Metro system is a critical component of a strong economy in our region and our Commonwealth.

The Chamber supports continued investments in the Virginia Railway Express, including the proposed Long Bridge project, as well as a regional initiative to create a seamless, safe, affordable and reliable bus system. Together with Metrorail and continued use of public-private partnerships for expanded roadway options, these efforts will help Northern Virginia attract new businesses and a talented workforce while allowing those business already here to grow in the 21st century.



TRANSPORTATION & INTERCONNECTIVITY



It is important that investment in new transportation infrastructure be matched with land use policies that maximize the benefits of these investments. The Chamber is committed to supporting changes in Northern Virginia's land use plans that promote the best use of development for the region.

The Chamber continues to appreciate the long-term transportation funding approved by the General Assembly in 2013. HB2313 sets forth an innovative, sustainable transportation-funding plan, which is an excellent first step in creating a long-term vision for Northern Virginia that will ensure we do not lose – but continue to enhance – our economic viability. As other regions across the Commonwealth consider establishing their own regional transportation authorities, it is important that a common criteria reflecting the efforts in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads be implemented.

It is the Chamber's continued policy to encourage the General Assembly to ensure that any and all tax revenues raised for transportation remain dedicated to that purpose. The ability for Virginia to attract and retain business is dependent on a 21st century transportation infrastructure solution, and the HB2313 revenues are vital to reaching that goal.

It remains incumbent on policymakers to use the revenue produced by HB2313 for transportation solutions in a way that will result in a significant reduction in congestion. The Chamber continues to support the ongoing efforts of state agencies in meeting the legislatively mandated congestion relief effort timeline. Additionally, state and regional transportation entities should use available transportation dollars on road and transit improvements and intelligent transportation systems that will:

- Move the greatest number of people;
- Reduce congestion and travel time between major employment centers and communities;
- Increase reliability of the network region-wide while producing the best long-term return on investment;
- Promote regional economic development and growth; and
- Enhance regional security and public safety.

As such, addressing the much needed congestion relief on the I-66 corridor has been a top priority for the Northern Virginia business community. The Chamber believes the Transform66 project, both inside and outside the Beltway, addresses the various jurisdictional transportation interests to create a regionally balanced solution. Combined with the existing Express Lanes on I-495 and I-95, the Transform66 project can establish a regional network of HOT lanes that will provide reliable, enhanced travel options throughout the region by car, carpool, and transit.

The Chamber continues to support the use of congestion-based tolling throughout the transportation network. In particular, we support their use to facilitate the replacement of the American Legion Bridge, announced by Gov. Ralph Northern and Gov. Larry Hogan in 2019. The Bridge is one of the worse traffic chokepoints on the I-95 corridor and easing congestion on it is critical to creating a safe and efficient transportation system in the region.

EDUCATION

PRE K-12 EDUCATION



POSITIONS:

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports Virginia's public education system as one of the Commonwealth's greatest assets and to that end supports continued investments in education at all levels.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports full funding for K-12 education, including for the biennial re-benchmarking of Virginia's Standards of Quality (SOQ) and the restoration of reductions made to the cost of competing supplement in recent years, so that state funding more adequately supports K-12 education throughout the Commonwealth.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports a comprehensive review and modernization of the Local Composite Index (LCI) formula as well as the Standards of Quality, as they currently place Northern Virginia at a disadvantage by not taking into account important factors such as the differential between county and city taxing authority, the impact of cost of living on a locality's ability to pay staff, and the increased costs associated with providing services to significant and growing populations of students in poverty, of English learners, and of students receiving special education services.

The Northern Virginia Chamber opposes legislation or state budget reductions that cut the level of state funding for Northern Virginia Public Schools.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports investment in, and improved access to, high quality early childhood education--a key determinant of school readiness, career readiness, and Virginia's ability to build a competitive workforce.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports efforts to ensure that the Standards of Learning (SOL), the Commonwealth's expectations for student learning and achievement in grades K-12, align with the needs of the 21st century workforce.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports efforts like the Commonwealth's FastForward program that highlight and incentivize industry certification and credential programs as a pathway for career opportunity consistent with Virginia's workforce needs.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports initiatives that encourage localities to expand their portfolio of services for their K-12 students, as long as they do not negatively affect the current delivery of education; and initiatives that will improve teacher training, compensation and support, with particular emphasis on the critical need area of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or healthcare (STEM-H) education.

RATIONALE:

Northern Virginia is the economic engine of the Commonwealth, built upon a world-class public school system and access to a highly educated workforce. The Northern Virginia Chamber believes that the future growth of the Northern Virginia economy, and consequently Virginia's economy, is dependent on meaningful investment in K-12 education, which occurs only if the Commonwealth fully funds the Standards of Quality. Modernization of the Standards of Quality that takes into account resources necessary to deliver a 21st Century education, and reform that provides a more fair calculation of the Local Composite Index, is key to Northern Virginia's ability to continue providing a world-class public education to all in our region. To achieve these goals, the Chamber supports creative and innovative funding options for Virginia's public schools through public-private partnerships, alternative funding streams, grants and cost-reductions through strategic collaborative initiatives.

For Virginia to develop its competitive workforce of the future, access to high quality early childhood education is crucial. Supported by years of research, early childhood education programs help to capitalize on the first five years of a child's life--the period when 85-90% of the brain's foundation for critical thinking and problem-solving is developed. Moreover, according to the United States Chamber Foundation, investing in early childhood education is "a significant public savings with returns [that] can be as high as \$16 for every \$1 spent." Data-driven investments in this area - that leverage the private sector where appropriate - will reap dividends for the Commonwealth and its ability to grow, attract, and retain business and a skilled workforce.

Addressing the Commonwealth's teacher shortage is critical to ensuring Virginia students can expect an excellent education. The Chamber encourages the Commonwealth to address funding solutions and innovative teacher development programs focused on target shortage areas and in-demand sectors.

The Northern Virginia Chamber encourages innovation in the K-12 sector at the state and local level, including removing barriers to localities that would allow them to test innovative education delivery models. The Chamber supports initiatives that encourage and incentivize localities to expand and supplement their portfolio of services to address the needs of their students, with a particular emphasis on programs to help at-risk populations that have not traditionally attended four-year colleges. In any proposed legislation, it is important to ensure that new programs do not negatively impact the current delivery of education at any existing school.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports increased investment and focus on STEM-H education to ensure the future workforce has the skills and knowledge businesses will require. STEM-H education is essential to ensure that Virginia businesses will be able to compete in the global marketplace for many years to come.

POSITIONS:

The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of higher education throughout the Commonwealth as preparation for, and the continuing education of, the future workforce.

Supports the appropriate funding for staff, faculty, operations and instructional facilities at Virginia's public institutions of higher education, particularly George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC).

Supports initiatives that encourage greater collaboration among Virginia's colleges and universities, both public and private.

Supports dual enrollment initiatives as well as dual admissions proposals, such as the George Mason University – Northern Virginia Community College ADVANCE program, that encourage partnerships between K-12, two, and four-year institutions and that reduce the total cost of degree completion.

Supports the inclusion of the Virginia Community College System institutions in state programs aimed at growing the tech workforce in Virginia, especially in the Tech Talent Investment Program.

Supports efforts to better align credentialing between K-12 and higher education to support dual enrollment initiatives.

Supports continued investments and innovative approaches to increasing certificates, undergraduate and graduate degrees in key STEM-H areas to help grow businesses in Virginia.

Supports the efforts of the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative to expand Virginia's pipeline of cyber talent and commercialize the cyber-related activities of Virginia's colleges and universities.

Supports SySTEMic Solutions, a collaboration between Northern Virginia Community College, the business community, and other higher education initiatives designed to prepare students for careers in STEM-H fields.

Supports making college more affordable and accessible for all Virginia students - including increasing funding for state institutions and the Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) program for private institutions.

Supports efforts to make Virginia a more inclusive and welcoming Commonwealth by continuing to promote anti-discrimination efforts in the workforce.

Supports initiatives to strengthen the Commonwealth's workforce boards and promote a streamlined, collaborative workforce development system. This includes promoting greater collaboration with Virginia businesses, particularly those working on new technology, and supporting the talent pipeline that addresses the workforce needs of Virginia businesses.

Supports enhancing the development of entrepreneurial skills for a wide range of potential job seekers, including students, veterans and job seeking professionals.

Supports the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program and other targeted workforce initiatives to provide re-integration, training, up-certification, and job opportunities for veterans returning to Virginia after active duty.

Supports the creation of a one-stop online portal that will aid in the recruitment and retention of veterans to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE



RATIONALE:

The Northern Virginia Chamber maintains that higher education is an essential resource in facilitating economic development. Virginia's exceptional colleges and universities are invaluable assets in the process of educating, as well as retraining, the region's workforce and enhancing the quality of life in the region.

The Commonwealth must provide for appropriate investment in our higher education needs. Funding must sustain the outstanding quality of the Commonwealth's public institutions, including the community college system. Additionally, funding to support cutting edge research and development at universities, particularly George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College, is important to retaining Virginia's leadership edge in the global economy.

The Northern Virginia Chamber opposes efforts that require public institutions of higher education to establish enrollment requirements for Virginia residents until the Commonwealth meets its funding commitment to these institutions.

The Northern Virginia Chamber recognizes that access to affordable higher education provides great opportunity to citizens, and is essential to economic growth in the Commonwealth. In the ever-growing and diverse community of Northern Virginia, we must ensure that all students from families that are productive and taxpaying have a chance to fulfill their dreams.

Northern Virginia businesses are faced with the continual need to attract and retain exceptional employees. This task is made easier when we as a community take steps to grow our own workforce from individuals who choose to make Virginia their home. College graduates have significantly higher earning potential than those with only a high school diploma. A more educated workforce has positive implications for the well-being of the individual and the community, as well as the overall economic vitality of the Commonwealth through the contributions these individuals make to our local businesses.



EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE



Veterans are some of our nation's most talented and skilled leaders, and Virginia has already benefitted from the leadership and reliability veterans bring to our Commonwealth. Virginia businesses and veterans working together is a win-win for the Commonwealth. By bringing greater economic opportunity to military communities across the Commonwealth, Virginia businesses will benefit from access to a skilled pool of employees. Moreover, as Virginia maintains the highest number of veteran entrepreneurs in the nation, Virginia is uniquely positioned to support this community to the benefit of veterans, their families, and the Commonwealth.

At present, there are over 840,000 veterans residing in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Since 2000, Virginia has had high growth in its veteran population, specifically, those veterans under the age of 25. Recently, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, in conjunction with Deloitte, completed a study that determined the major issue facing veterans or military and their families is not unemployment. Unemployment in Northern Virginia is at less than three percent. Rather, the most significant issue associated is re-integration into the community in which they live, work and play. These challenges range from finding the appropriate healthcare to education and homelessness.

With a strong military presence, defense activities, and civilian contractors, Virginia must continue to be a leader of veteran employment strategies. Through the Department of Veteran Services' V3 program, employers receive training on how to recruit, hire, and retain veterans. The Northern Virginia Chamber supports efforts to increase the amount of resources to enhance this program.

In addition, the development of a one-stop portal that will centralize efforts in Virginia to re-integrate veterans into the Commonwealth and that builds an awareness of careers and services is urgently needed.



POSITIONS:

Right to Work, Minimum Wage, and Paid Family Leave

Supports the positive labor environment built upon the Commonwealth's existing right-to-work laws.

Opposes increases in the minimum wage not justified by economic data and that do not consider the impacts on all areas of the Commonwealth.

Supports more effective poverty reduction public policies like the earned income tax credit and stronger investments in education and skills training rather than an increase in the minimum wage.

Supports the existing tip credit statute that ensures tipped workers earn at least the minimum wage.

Opposes tax increase to create a state-run paid family leave program, particularly an increase on businesses that already offer generous, market-driven benefits packages.

Opposes the use of mandatory project labor agreements (PLAs).

RATIONALE:

The repeal of Right to Work will create economic headwinds in the Commonwealth that will stagnate business and job growth for the foreseeable future. The economy of Virginia would be negatively impacted by similar legislative efforts, such as requiring non-unionized employees in a unionized environment to pay a "fair share" to a union. These are seen by the business community as a dilution of Right to Work, which is a major factor in creating the positive business climate Virginia enjoys today. The Northern Virginia Chamber has historically opposed legislation that undermines a business' ability to make fundamental employment decisions.

Many parts of Virginia, and even in Northern Virginia with the expansion of the Micron facility, rely heavily on manufacturing as an economic driver. Repeal or dilution of Right to Work will erase gains we have made in this critical sector, and will force companies to look elsewhere to grow.

The Chamber believes the best way to lift an individual out of poverty is to provide them with adequate education, skills and training to prepare them for the workforce of the future. We do not

believe that these policy changes – increases in minimum wage, and mandated paid family leave – either together or individually will have the same positive impact on the Northern Virginia workforce that investments in education and training would have. In most industries in Northern Virginia, the market has established an effective minimum wage rate above the existing law. Most if not all of our members already offer a generous benefits package that includes some form of paid leave for employees. We are concerned that a new cost, coupled with the potential for employees to take significant amounts of leave, businesses will rollback their benefits package to offset direct and indirect costs associated with a state-mandated paid family leave program.

Mandatory project labor agreements run contrary to the underpinnings of our economically vibrant right-to-work state. Mandatory project labor agreements dissuade merit-based employers from participating in bidding processes, thereby hindering competition in the marketplace. Because the overwhelming majority of Virginia contractors are not unionized, the inclusion of mandatory project labor requirements will result in a loss of business to Virginia contractors.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS CLIMATE



POSITIONS:

Supports a regional approach to economic development, inclusive of public sector dialogue and collaboration with industry to grow Virginia's economy – including continued support and funding for the GO Virginia initiative.

Supports the use of economic incentives and performance grants with continued use of objective, definable metrics to enhance the economic competitiveness of the Northern Virginia region as well as the Commonwealth for targeted growth industries.

Supports policies that grow our diverse innovation economy – specifically for Virginia employers with major research and development expenditures conducted in the Commonwealth.

Supports policies that promote open, competitive, transparent, and timely state procurement.

Supports efforts to encourage commercialization of research and development conducted at Virginia's colleges and universities.

Supports capitalizing on Virginia's advantages in the unmanned and autonomous systems industry to promote research and commercialization.

Supports maintaining operational funding for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), which will promote improved employment opportunities, a broadened tax base, and increased governmental revenues.

Supports the diversification of the economy by increased focus on international trade in Virginia, including funding and resource support for international trade efforts.

Supports efforts to develop and support an entrepreneurial and innovation culture throughout the business community.

Supports focus on regional economic strategies to guide state and local economic development initiatives consistent with achieving the region's growth targets by 2020 and sustaining this growth trajectory going forward.

Supports efforts to fully fund and fill judicial vacancies throughout the Commonwealth.

Opposes the expansion of unemployment insurance benefits to part-time workers.

Opposes changes to Virginia's workers' compensation law that seek to weaken its basic function, including a redefinition of a work-related injury, modifying the exclusive remedy provisions and expanding coverage to conditions not clearly related to employment.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS CLIMATE



RATIONALE:

The Commonwealth needs to continue to attract and retain businesses and top talent in an increasingly competitive global economy. The Chamber supports a pro-growth and pro-jobs legislative agenda that will elevate Virginia's economy and ensure the Commonwealth remains an attractive place to start and grow a business. To that end, the Chamber supports the use of economic incentives and performance grants to targeted industries that stimulate economic activity and job creation throughout the Commonwealth.

GO Virginia is an important initiative to encourage regional collaboration in Northern Virginia and throughout the Commonwealth. Regionalism is key to Virginia's future economic growth, and continued investment in this program will promote regional economic development efforts in Northern Virginia and the rest of Commonwealth.

During continued uncertain economic times, legislators must focus on working with businesses to retain, create and attract jobs. Recognizing the unique needs and challenges of the small business community, the Chamber supports efforts to ease the regulatory hurdles facing those individuals wishing to start or expand a business.

Virginia is home to a number of innovators, researchers, and technologists. The Commonwealth should be a place for cutting-edge research and technology promoting scientific advancements and new company formation around commercialization. The Northern Virginia Chamber supports the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) in their efforts to grow innovation and entrepreneurship in the Commonwealth, including the CIT GAP Fund, the Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund, and the MACH37 Cyber Security Accelerator.

The Commonwealth is home to the eighth largest concentration of unmanned system firms in the nation at a time when the use of unmanned

and autonomous systems is rapidly expanding. Unmanned systems could provide Virginia with numerous practical benefits, and the Chamber and its members are eager to collaborate with Federal, State, and Local government and related industry association stakeholders to enable the positive business impact related to the proliferation of unmanned systems in Virginia. This includes sharing best-practice examples of innovative, compliant, effective, and commercially viable unmanned system programs, along with encouraging a regulatory framework that supports the growth of these programs. As these new and exciting possibilities emerge, Virginia is in a highly competitive position to take the greatest advantage of the industry's development and reap benefits from it.

Virginia's current workers' compensation system fairly balances an injured employee's need to receive appropriate medical treatment and an employer's desire to have the employee return to work in a timely fashion. In fact, Virginia historically ranks among the top states nationally when workers' compensation premiums are compared to the benefits conferred to eligible injured employees. Expansion of eligibility and benefits for workers' compensation would upset this careful balance and confer too high a burden on employers while decreasing Virginia's attractiveness as one of the top states in the nation to do business. In addition, increases to the unemployment insurance fund necessary to accommodate expansion to part-time workers would place an undue burden on Virginia's employers at a time of economic stress, and could place benefits for Virginia's full-time unemployed workers in jeopardy.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (P3)



POSITIONS:

Supports innovative solutions to various regional issues through public-private partnerships (P3s) and encourages policies that promote the development and long-term successful and efficient operation of these partnerships.

Opposes any legislative efforts that would alter the Public-Private Transportation Act's (PPTA) current review and selection process or limit the authority or ability of the Office of Public Private Partnerships to choose projects consistent with state, local and metropolitan transportation plans.

Supports the ability of the Office of Public Private Partnerships to select and approve projects without the requirement of legislative approval.

Supports the privatization, outsourcing, and coordination of new and existing state and local government services when they can be provided with a greater return on investment and a higher degree of efficiency. The Chamber also supports governments at all levels establishing transparent policies and procedures, along with definable metrics, for determining whether a service should or should not be outsourced.

RATIONALE:

Virginia has been a leader in Public Private Partnerships and that success is based on the transparent procurement process that promotes competition and welcomes private investment. This balanced approach is in stark contrast to other states, where overly burdensome regulations and requirements make Public Private Partnerships unachievable.

In addition, the Northern Virginia Chamber has long maintained that the Commonwealth of Virginia should not implement any changes either through the PPTA Statute or the PPTA Guidelines that would discourage private investment in the Commonwealth. Any changes that require legislative approval or inject unnecessary political risk into the process creates a level of uncertainty that will hamper private investment. As other states adopt Public Private Partnerships as a procurement tool, private investors will invest in states that provide a stable process. It is important that Virginia maintain its status as a leader in Public Private Partnerships by ensuring a predictable process for private investment. Virginia is considered a leader in these efforts, learning from both bad contracts in other parts of the state, and the very successful, popular projects in

our region. In Northern Virginia, two P3s were used very effectively to construct the I-495 and I-95 Express Lanes. Construction was completed safely and in record time. The projects generated over \$5 billion in economic activity, supported 28,000 jobs and issued \$765 million in contracts to small, women and minority owned businesses. The projects served as a model for the historic announcement in 2019 of a bipartisan deal to replace the American Legion Bridge.

It is the Chamber's unequivocal position that Virginia's P3 process should foster a system that promotes transparency, encourages innovation through competition and maintains accountability.

The Northern Virginia Chamber believes that competitive sourcing by governments improves the delivery of services and provides it at a lower cost. In addition, competitive sourcing injects new technology into the delivery of services, allowing governments to focus their resources on core governmental activities such as education and public safety. The Chamber believes competitive sourcing may resolve deficiencies and result in numerous benefits to governments at all levels, as well as taxpayers, particularly during difficult budgetary times.

POSITIONS:

Support a comprehensive examination and modernization of the Commonwealth's system for collecting and expending state and local tax revenues in a manner that recognizes changes in Virginia's economy and promotes continued economic prosperity and job creation, while not unduly burdening a particular industry.

Supports the continued review of conformity with the 2017 federal Tax Cut and Jobs Act via the workgroup established in 2019.

Supports the Dillon Rule, the Commonwealth's longstanding, successful system requiring specific authority from the General Assembly to increase powers at the local level.

Supports government simplifying the regulatory process by frequently assessing the need for existing regulations, and only imposing new regulations that achieve a specific need or goal for the community without imposing an undue burden.

Opposes legislation creating a taxing authority for school boards.

Supports a constitutional amendment to permit Virginia's governor to serve two consecutive terms as chief executive.

Supports a clearly defined, independent, and non-partisan redistricting process that prioritizes compact, contiguous communities of common interest.

Opposes the creation of a residential property homestead exemption and efforts to impose single industry taxes, unless the targeted industry expresses its support for the measure.

Opposes legislation to remove the referendum requirement for a meals tax.

Opposes rate-setting by the federal government of any private industry, including but not limited to health insurance reimbursements to providers.



RATIONALE:

As the Voice of Business in Northern Virginia™, the Northern Virginia Chamber is particularly concerned about the inequitable redistribution of state revenue to competing localities in different parts of the Commonwealth. Reinvestment in the Northern Virginia economy yields tremendous benefits for the region and the Commonwealth as a whole. Redirecting revenue away from Northern Virginia in an inequitable manner slows the economic engine driving Virginia's economic recovery. As personal income growth of Northern Virginia residents continues to outpace income growth statewide, the transfer of tax revenue away from local governments in Northern Virginia to the Commonwealth undermines the ability of local governments to support the growing public infrastructure and service requirements of this highly productive economy.

The Northern Virginia Chamber opposes efforts to impose single industry taxes unless the targeted industry expresses its support for the measure. Any attempt to raise revenue must share the burden evenly among all businesses and residents without placing an undue burden on any single industry.

In addition, allowing governors to serve two terms brings a greater level of consistency to the highest office in the state. Virginia is the only state that limits its governor to a single, non-consecutive term. The current economic situation and ever-increasing global competition demands long-term strategic thinking and planning, which is not available under the limits of a one-term governorship. A one-term governor also necessitates constant turnover of senior staff and policy positions, which impacts the business climate throughout the Commonwealth.

The Chamber continues to advocate that the Dillon Rule is key to Virginia's future economic success because it sets an even playing field for businesses throughout the Commonwealth. Keeping businesses in Northern Virginia competitive is critical to the entire Commonwealth, as Northern Virginia is the driver of Virginia's robust economy.

The Northern Virginia Chamber will continue to oppose any efforts to create a residential property homestead exemption. The Northern Virginia Chamber has long opposed legislation that would permit local governments to establish such an exemption, as it would lead to increases in the differential property tax rates paid by commercial and rental property taxpayers.



POSITIONS:

The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce supports initiatives that promote a diverse, reliable, efficient, and affordable energy portfolio to support a growing economy, while contributing to the Commonwealth's economic development and environmental goals. Such initiatives include the appropriate use of Virginia's natural resources including natural gas, clean coal, oil, nuclear power, renewable energy, cost effective green building construction, and transit-oriented development. Local government energy plans should take into account broad stakeholder interests.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports new energy infrastructure, including the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines as well as improvements to existing energy infrastructure in order to maintain affordable and reliable energy sources to help achieve Virginia's economic development and quality of life goals.

The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce supports cost-effective, future-focused standards, particularly in land-use, design and energy infrastructure, based on best available climate science to protect infrastructure investments and promote positive economic development.

The Northern Virginia Chamber encourages local and statewide policies that serve as cost-effective incentives to build and maintain a robust energy sources portfolio to enhance Virginia's competitiveness in the global market place.

The Chamber supports implementation of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, providing property owners a simple financing solution for energy efficiency improvements.

RATIONALE:

Energy is the single most important physical resource supporting Virginia's economic prosperity, regional security, and global competitiveness. With Northern Virginia's growing population and economy, the region needs a reliable and affordable energy supply that keeps pace with growth. To meet the energy needs of current and future citizens, the Northern Virginia Chamber encourages the development of new electricity generation facilities, improved transmission infrastructure, and the facilitation of offshore production of energy. Renewable energy, as well as increased energy conservation and efficiency, should also be included in the Commonwealth's energy portfolio.

The Commonwealth must consider the impact of rising sea levels and increased nuisance flooding on public infrastructure. The Northern Virginia Chamber supports climate mitigation efforts that are cost-effective that utilize the best available science.

The Northern Virginia Chamber supports developing the energy infrastructure needed to meet the current and future energy demands of Northern Virginia. Energy conservation legislation must be evaluated on a cost-benefit basis and allow for the appropriate amount of energy necessary to run the region's economy, or include assurances that equally reliable substitute renewable energy will be available.

POSITIONS:

Supports full implementation of Medicaid coverage expansion and continued innovation within the program to ensure Northern Virginia residents have access to quality healthcare coverage while protecting Northern Virginia businesses from the burden of increasing healthcare costs.

Opposes legislation that would create or support a federally administered healthcare system to replace the current private system either in whole or in part.

The Chamber believes the best way to receive adequate and affordable care is through gainful employment and access to the private marketplace, and supports efforts to enhance what works and fix what does not in our current system.

Supports the immediate replacement of funding for the Virginia Trauma Center Fund which was removed with the passage of unrelated legislation. The Chamber also supports the identification of a long term, sustainable source of revenue for the Trauma Fund.

Support efforts to lower healthcare costs, including consideration of modifying the existing fee-for-service model to one that emphasizes greater coordination of care through value-based payments.

Support efforts to broaden the Commonwealth's healthcare workforce and facilities to meet the needs of Virginia businesses, communities, and patients.

Supports a Medicaid work requirement that considers the burden placed on employers to administer such a program.

Supports continued reform efforts and streamlined regulatory processes that seek to ensure greater access to care, and initiatives seeking to preserve a robust insurance marketplace, while preserving quality and lowering costs for employers and enrollees alike.

Support the Commonwealth paying the full cost of care for its Medicaid enrollees and that the biennial budget more adequately compensates those that provide Medicaid services.

Supports increased resources dedicated to delivering innovation and improvements to the behavioral health delivery system that closes gaps between existing services with a full array of evidence based, trauma informed services from early intervention and prevention services to crisis and residential services and that enables individuals and families to choose among competitive community-based services.

RATIONALE:

The Northern Virginia Chamber and the Northern Virginia business community continue to support Medicaid reform as a critical opportunity to take the Commonwealth's current Medicaid program off its current unsustainable course. Medicaid currently represents a substantial and growing share of Virginia's General Fund spending, crowding out other critical funding priorities that are necessary to keep the Commonwealth competitive.

The 2018 Medicaid reform and coverage expansion legislation included a number of reforms long supported by the business community, including new care models inspired by successes in the private sector, programs that encourage patients to take ownership in their wellness, and funding strategies that take full advantage of all funding sources, including federal investment, to defray additional costs to Commonwealth taxpayers. All while providing Virginia the opportunity to roll-back coverage if the federal government fails to uphold its funding commitment.

The Northern Virginia Chamber encourages the Commonwealth to acknowledge the investment of Virginia's hospitals and health systems and maintain its partnership in defraying the fiscal impact of both Medicaid expansion and enhanced Medicaid reimbursement. It is important the Commonwealth not reduce its funding commitment as a result of this investment from the private and non-profit sectors.



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