HAMPTON ROADS PARTNERSHIP

January 12, 2011

SUBJECT: Hampton Roads Partnership Legislative Agenda

Please find attached the 2010 Legislative Agenda developed for the Hampton Roads region as approved by the Partnership's Board of Directors on December 10, 2010. Numerous stakeholders including business and industry, colleges and universities, chambers of commerce and other regional organizations aided in selection of individual items. The Legislative Agenda is also available on the http://HRP.org website.

The most urgent and impactful Agenda items for the 2012 session of the General Assembly are:

1. ***Transportation:*** Amtrak will end operating support in 2013, and Virginia will lose all Amtrak Northeast Regional services from Newport News, Richmond, Lynchburg and future expansions to Norfolk and Roanoke. Please support legislation for the generation of reliable, long-term revenue source solutions for higher speed rail.
2. ***Modeling and Simulation Development:*** The National Center for Collaboration in Medical Modeling and Simulation (NCCMMS) is a joint project of EVMS and ODU. The Center has done successful research and development, but the time is now to establish Hampton Roads as the national leader in health care delivery, simulation and training, an important step in our economic diversification process. Appropriate funding will: expedite innovation and commercialization of research; attract, create, or expand private sector entities that will promote a substantial increase in high-quality jobs; and increase the applied technology research capabilities of institutions of higher education. Please support funding of NCCMMS with the Virginia Research and Technology Investment Fund to be used for grants or loans.

Sincerely,

E. Dana Dickens, III
President and CEO

Providing strategic leadership and improving Hampton Roads' competitive position in the global economy.

Founded in 1996, the Hampton Roads Partnership represents ten cities, six counties, one town and their nearly 1.7 million citizens in Southeastern Virginia, *America's First Region*, in the Heart of the Mid-Atlantic. Membership consists of community leaders from business and industry, professions and information services, nonprofit, academia and labor, membership representing close to one-third of the region's population and over one-half of the labor force. The Partnership facilitates regional collaboration and action resulting in income and job growth and a better quality of life for all of the region's citizens. Learn more at http://VisionHamptonRoads.com.

2011 State Legislative Agenda

Hampton Roads Partnership: Providing leadership to focus on the strategic issues that will improve Hampton Roads' competitive position in the global economy.

HAMPTON ROADS PARTNERSHIP

Hampton Roads, America's First Region

HAMPTON ROADS PRIORITY ITEMS:

ECONOMY

FEDERAL & MILITARY-RELATED DEVELOPMENT

- **SUPPORT** competitive funding awards be made available to Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA) through the Military Strategic Response Fund (MSRF).
- **SUPPORT** investment in public infrastructure, such as transportation, critical for the operational effectiveness of the military bases in Hampton Roads.
- **SUPPORT** Department of Defense and locality efforts to prevent and mitigate encroachment around military bases and in military offshore training ranges from interfering with mission readiness while allowing prudently planned economic development to proceed.

MODELING & SIMULATION DEVELOPMENT

- **SUPPORT** Modeling & Simulation with tax incentives for expansion of M&S businesses.
- **SUPPORT** use of Modeling & Simulation in state emergency management training and drills.
- **SUPPORT** the Commonwealth's Modeling and Simulation Advisory Council.
- **SUPPORT** the budget amendment submitted by Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) and Old Dominion University's Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC) to develop medical modeling and simulation.

PORT-RELATED DEVELOPMENT

- **SUPPORT** the Port of Hampton Roads as an economic engine through improvement of adequate surface connections to enhance regional mobility and improve access to inland markets.
- **SUPPORT** sound fiscal policies and economic development tools that support the Port, including incentives to move containers via rail and barge rather than roads.
- **SUPPORT** safe, efficient and environmentally compatible and responsible growth of the Port .

TECHNOLOGY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **SUPPORT** the needs of NASA Langley Research Center, National Institute of Aerospace, Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in addition to regional universities.
- **SUPPORT** the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Investment Authority (IEIA) by doubling overall funding for research and development, technology commercialization and investment in high growth potential technology companies in order to accelerate technology-based economic development in the Commonwealth.
- **SUPPORT** the Commonwealth Research Initiative (CRI) to expand the research capacity at Virginia's universities and enable then to initiate and sustain research programs in areas that will generate significant economic return for the Commonwealth.
- **SUPPORT** the Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund (CRCF) to expand and accelerate commercialization of technology and applied science research at Virginia's universities.
- **SUPPORT** the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) GAP Fund to expand seed-stage equity investments in Virginia-based technology and life science companies with a high potential for achieving rapid growth and generating significant economic return.

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HAMPTON ROADS PRIORITY ITEMS:

ECONOMY (continued)

TECHNOLOGY-BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued)

- **SUPPORT** the Commonwealth's Aerospace Advisory Council.
- **SUPPORT** the Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium (VCERC).
- **SUPPORT** the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority.
- **SUPPORT** the Virginia Offshore Wind Development Authority (VOW).

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

- **SUPPORT** a dedicated revenue stream for the Virginia Tourism Corporation to fund tourism promotion activities and increased funding for tourism marketing and promotion.
- **SUPPORT** efforts to exempt state agencies that produce revenue and stimulate the economy such as the Virginia Tourism Corporation from budget reductions.
- **SUPPORT** increased tax incentives for film production and expand the Governor's Opportunity Motion Picture Fund.
- **SUPPORT** consistent branding of the Hampton Roads region with removal of references to "Tidewater" on all state and agency department nomenclature, websites, documents, publications, and signage.

HAMPTON ROADS PRIORITY ITEMS:

GOVERNMENT & CITIZENS

- **SUPPORT** mechanisms for regional cooperation among adjoining Hampton Roads localities in order to allow for economic development and shared economies of scale in service delivery.
- **SUPPORT** the provision of the needed infrastructure to allow Hampton Roads communities to plan for anticipated growth in economic activity.

HAMPTON ROADS PRIORITY ITEMS:

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

HIGHER EDUCATION

- **SUPPORT** the legislative agendas of the following institutions of Higher Education:
  - College of William & Mary
  - Christopher Newport University
  - Eastern Virginia Medical School
  - Hampton University
  - Norfolk State University
  - Old Dominion University
  - Paul D. Camp Community College
  - Tidewater Community College
  - Thomas Nelson Community College
  - Virginia Wesleyan College

K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

- **SUPPORT** world-class standards of excellence in Virginia's K-12 education system by maintaining and funding the current mandated Standards of Quality funding formula requiring the Commonwealth to pay 55 percent of the prevailing cost of education.
- **SUPPORT** science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in K-12 public education.

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HAMPTON ROADS PRIORITY ITEMS:

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **SUPPORT** initiatives to create a more comprehensive, unified system of publicly funded universal employment and training services.
- **SUPPORT** initiatives to provide quality education and training that enable businesses to achieve their goals via a more skilled, flexible and productive workforce.
- **SUPPORT** health information technology training programs in Virginia's Community Colleges in partnership with the Virginia Health Information Technology (Virginia HIT) and pursue the opportunity emerging via the Consortium for Health Information Technology to make Virginia a national leader in innovative health IT training.

Education infrastructure must be of the highest quality for students to compete in today's global economy. We must ensure all students have equal access to resources needed to reach be successful including quality physical facilities, equipment, materials, and a sufficient number of well-qualified instructional personnel consistent.

HAMPTON ROADS PRIORITY ITEMS:

TRANSPORTATION

FUNDING

- **SUPPORT** state-wide revenue streams that are broad-based, long-term, simple, and efficient to collect; sourced from all ultimate consumers including those in-state and out-of-state, wholesalers, retailers, and users of products and services moved over the transportation grid; designed to encourage smart transportation grid use and development; and designed to enable everyone to pay their fair share.
- **SUPPORT** Hampton Roads-specific revenue streams dedicated to the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) approved projects.

PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE

- **SUPPORT** the identification and development of a sustainable revenue stream to fund the operations of TPO-approved Passenger Rail Service for Hampton Roads.
- **SUPPORT** the federal application by the Commonwealth of Virginia for funding the critical infrastructure needed for Passenger Rail Service to include Hampton Roads.
- **SUPPORT** planning, construction, and maintenance of an improved statewide multi-modal transportation system that is need-based, cohesive, integrated, and interconnected.

Transportation remains a critical priority throughout Hampton Roads and is crucial to the mission performance of the 50+ military and other federal activities as well as the ports in Hampton Roads, a gateway to the world.

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