

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Terrance McAuliffe
Office of the Governor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

On behalf of the Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland business communities, we ask that you enter into discussions with Maryland to upgrade the American Legion Bridge (ALB) and, concurrently, pursue an additional river crossing to the west of the ALB.

We appreciate your leadership in increasing Potomac River crossing capacity. As you have frequently acknowledged, a new western Potomac River crossing is essential to ensuring our region's global competitiveness and the future success of Washington Dulles International Airport. An outer bridge crossing is also a priority for increased regional connectivity, quality of life and security.

Regional transportation plans from the 1960s called for two additional crossings west of the ALB. A 1998 VDOT study and a 2013 private sector study using MWCOG traffic and land use projections both showed that a new crossing would carry in excess of 100,000 vehicles daily and provide significant relief to the ALB and to other corridors on both sides of the Potomac.

Tomorrow's economy will grow increasingly complex and the demand for highly skilled workers along with it. Failure to expand capacity and trans-Potomac River crossing options will reduce our region's ability to attract and retain those skilled workers.

Acting now is essential. Failure to expeditiously begin discussions with Maryland to identify and secure the best location for an additional crossing will result in more residential and commercial development precluding a new bridge.

Assertions that no Maryland support exists for a new crossing are not accurate. Significant private and public sector support exists on both sides of the Potomac River. Businesses, with interests on both sides of the river, support projects such these to move their employees to and from their work locations. A 2002 Montgomery County governmental task force study showed that along with the Intercounty Connector, a new crossing was the most important investment Montgomery County could make to improve its overall transportation network. Nothing has happened in the last decade to change that reality.

The Hogan administration's reconsideration of its initial opposition to Purple Line demonstrates its openness to persuasion on critical transportation investments. And no one is a better persuader than you. However, any Virginia suggestion that top priority be assigned to an ALB upgrade and consideration of new crossing be postponed to some future date will likely kill any Maryland inclination and incentive to pursue a new crossing any time soon and make future construction of a new crossing highly unlikely.

We recognize that it takes two states to make these vital improvements happen, but leadership can start with just one. You did not become a successful businessman, and win the support of many members of the business community, by taking an initial "no" for an answer on ventures in which you believed. We urge you to communicate to the CTB, VDOT and the State of Maryland your strong and unequivocal support for both a new crossing and an upgraded American Legion Bridge without regard to which should come first.

Now is the time. Tomorrow will soon be here,



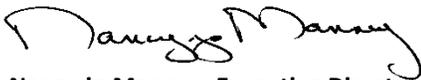
**Brian M. Gordon, MPA, VP of Government Affairs
Apartment and Office Building Association**



**Leo J. Titus, Jr. PE, President
Committee for Dulles**



**Jim Corcoran, President & CEO
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce**



**Nancy-jo Manney, Executive Director
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce**



**Ken Garrison, Executive Director
Heavy Construction Contractors Association**



**Martha D. Marks, President
NAIOP - Northern Virginia:
The Commercial Real Estate Development Assoc.**



**Jerry Berman, President
Northern Virginia Building Industry Association**



**Mark C. Looney, Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance**

**Rich Parsons, Vice-Chair and Co-Founder
Suburban Maryland Transportation Alliance**

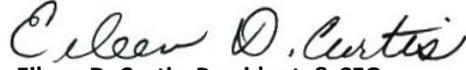


**Keith Merlin, President
Washington Airports Task Force**

Cc: Secretary Aubrey Lane
Commonwealth Transportation Board
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
Virginia General Assembly, Northern Virginia delegation



**Pat Dean, President
Associated Builders and Contractors – VA**



**Eileen D. Curtis, President & CEO
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce**



**Mark S. Ingraø, President & CEO
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce**



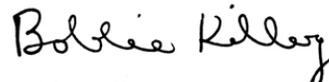
**James C. Dinegar, President & CEO
Greater Washington Board of Trade**



**Anthony Howard, President & CEO
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce**



**Mary Bayat, Chairman of the Board
Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®**



**Bobbie Kilberg, President & CEO
Northern Virginia Technology Council**



**Deborah Jones, President & CEO
Prince William Chamber of Commerce**



**Mark Rogoff, Chairman of the Board
Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce**