

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.  
Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Frank W. Wagner  
Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Richard L. Saslaw  
Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Timothy D. Hugo  
Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Christopher K. Peace  
Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan, Jr.  
Virginia House of Delegates

Dear Members of the Senate Bill 856/House Bill 1539 Conference Committee:

As organizations representing Virginia's business community, we are committed to promoting economic vitality in the Commonwealth of Virginia. What makes our Commonwealth so prosperous, in addition to the strong business climate promoted by leaders in Richmond, is Virginia's investment in core statewide assets like the Port of Virginia, our international airports, and our public institutions of higher education. Metro, the largest public transit system in the Commonwealth, is one of those core statewide assets. The business community in Virginia is committed to the long term stability of Metro.

As you consider aspects of SB 856 and HB 1539, we urge you to reach agreement on securing no less than \$154 million in annual funding for Metro's capital needs. \$154 million per year is Virginia's share of the amount needed to achieve \$500 million per year in dedicated, bondable funding between Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. \$500 million in regional, dedicated, annual funding is the figure that every analysis has shown is a minimum requirement to return the Metro system to a state of good repair and improve its service and reliability. Virginia has the opportunity to lead the region by meeting this funding target - delaying new Metro funding will push the system past important funding and maintenance deadlines that will likely result in the further curtailing of service and additional fare increases.

We acknowledge that this funding package must also be paired with reforms. Changes to Metro's board governance, specifically a reduction in the number of board members, would align Metro's Board with similarly sized transportation systems throughout the country. A revitalized board can better allocate resources and develop stronger business plans to implement efficiencies in operations.

The Metro corridor has been the center of development and economic growth in Northern Virginia, particularly over the past decade. With continued attention on the Commonwealth as a finalist for Amazon's "HQ2" site, it is clear Metro is a key differentiator in Virginia's attractiveness as a place to do business. The infusion of 50,000 high-wage jobs into Virginia would be a generational game-changer for the Commonwealth. Amazon has made clear that access to public transit is one of their top priorities in identifying a new home, and the Northern Virginia sites under consideration are located adjacent to a Metro station. It has never been more imperative that we ensure the Metro corridor continues to remain vibrant.

More than 350,000 Virginians rely on Metro every day. Most of these Virginians are commuters who see Metro as a lifeline to reliably get to and from work. According to a recent study, the sales and income tax revenue generated by the presence of Metrorail, along with Virginia Railway Express, total more than \$600 million annually to the Commonwealth's general fund. Metro's economic impact is felt not just in Northern Virginia or in the Capital Region, but in every part of our Commonwealth where this revenue is used to improve quality of life for all Virginians.

Aside from the potential of Amazon HQ2, the continued development of Arlington and Alexandria, Tysons and Reston, and the planned growth in the Dulles corridor and Eastern Loudoun due to Phase II of the Silver Line, demonstrates that Metro is a critical

component of Northern Virginia's economic future and, in turn, the attractiveness of Virginia as a place to start, grow, or locate a business. In fact, Virginia's most recent major corporate relocation, Nestle USA, was made possible in large part because of ready access to Metro. Accessibility to Metro will continue to drive business growth in years to come, as 100% of planned commercial development in Northern Virginia over the next five years is located within 0.5 miles of a Metro station.

Addressing the long term financial and operational stability of Metro is unquestionably a significant challenge, but the business community is committed to standing with leaders who are prepared to make the difficult decisions in addressing this challenge. Now is the time to act to provide \$154 million in capital funding along with appropriate and achievable reform measures to ensure Virginia's quality of life and continued economic growth are preserved for years to come through a fully funded, well-governed, and efficiently operated Metro system.

Sincerely,



Jim Corcoran  
President and CEO  
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce



Mark S. Ingrao  
President and CEO  
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce



Joe Haggerty  
President and CEO  
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce



Kim Scheeler  
President and CEO  
ChamberRVA



Kate Bates  
President and CEO  
Arlington Chamber of Commerce



Kimberly K. Horn  
2018 Chair  
Greater Washington Board of Trade



John Boylan  
President and CEO  
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce



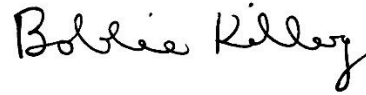
Jason Miller  
President and CEO  
Greater Washington Partnership



Paul Kohlenberger  
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Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce



Bryan K. Stephens  
President and CEO  
Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce



Bobbie Kilberg  
President and CEO  
Northern Virginia Technology Council



Anthony J. Howard  
President and CEO  
Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce



David Birtwistle  
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Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance



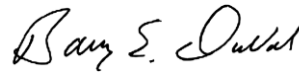
Deborah L. Jones  
President and CEO  
Prince William Chamber of Commerce



Virginia Case  
Chair  
Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce



Holly Dougherty  
Executive Director  
Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce



Barry E. DuVal  
President and CEO  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

cc: The Honorable Ralph Northam, Governor of Virginia  
The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, Speaker of the House, Virginia House of Delegates  
The Honorable Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia