

January 25, 2018

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Virginia  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox  
Speaker of the House  
Virginia House of Delegates  
Room E605, Pocahontas Building  
900 E. Main St,  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.  
Majority Leader  
Senate of Virginia  
Room E603, Pocahontas Building  
900 E. Main St,  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Northam, Speaker Cox, and Leader Norment:

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.

The Metro corridor has been the center of development and economic growth in Northern Virginia, particularly over the past decade. With last week's announcement that Amazon has selected Northern Virginia as a finalist for its "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.

To ensure Metro's future, investment in the system during this legislative session is vital. In order to maintain state of good repair, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C. must identify a long-term, sustainable, dedicated, and bondable revenue source equaling \$500 million per year, with Virginia's share totaling \$154 million per year. Identifying this funding during the 2018 General Assembly session is key, as 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.

A dedicated funding package must also be paired with reforms. Changes to Metro's board governance, specifically a temporary reform board, would establish a framework to implement needed, long-term structural reforms related to governance, operations and funding. A revitalized board can better allocate resources and develop stronger business plans to create a truly innovative transit system – something we all support.

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 Greater Washington, 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.

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 this year. Now is the time to act 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



Paul Kohlenberger  
President  
Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce



Joe Haggerty  
President and CEO  
Alexandria Chamber of Commerce



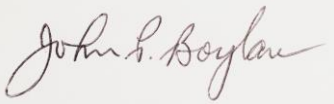
Mark S. Ingrao  
President and CEO  
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce



Kate Bates  
President and CEO  
Arlington Chamber of Commerce



Kim Scheeler  
President and CEO  
Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce



John Boylan  
President and CEO  
Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce



Kimberly K. Horn  
2018 Chair  
Greater Washington Board of Trade



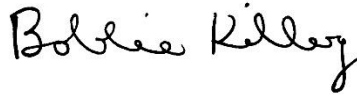
Jason Miller  
President and CEO  
Greater Washington Partnership



Holly Dougherty  
Executive Director  
Mount Vernon Lee 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



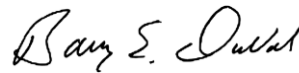
David Birtwistle  
CEO  
Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance



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



Virginia Case  
Chair  
Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce



Barry E. DuVal  
President and CEO  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

cc: The Honorable Richard L. Saslaw, Minority Leader, Senate of Virginia  
The Honorable Ryan McDougle, Majority Caucus Chairman, Senate of Virginia  
The Honorable Mamie Locke, Minority Caucus Chair, Senate of Virginia  
The Honorable Todd Gilbert, Majority Leader, Virginia House of Delegates  
The Honorable David Toscano, Minority Leader, Virginia House of Delegates  
The Honorable Tim Hugo, Majority Caucus Chairman, Virginia House of Delegates  
The Honorable Charniele Herring, Minority Caucus Chair, Virginia House of Delegates

The Honorable Emmett Hanger, Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable S. Chris Jones, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee