



March 3, 2015

Dear Representative Rigell:

On behalf of Virginia Beach Vision, Inc. and its 120 business and community leaders, I ask that you actively support legislation that will be introduced very shortly by N.C. Congressman Butterfield and US Senator Tillis from North Carolina that would authorize a future Interstate corridor from Hampton Roads to Raleigh via Elizabeth City, N.C. The legislation will be identical to bills introduced in the last Congress, [HR 4829](#) / [S 2720](#). They will ensure by law that the Raleigh-Norfolk Corridor and the US-70 Corridor would become future parts of the interstate system once they are fully upgraded to interstate standards.

There is growing awareness and support within southeastern Virginia to gain a future Interstate designation for the highway corridor from Hampton Roads to Raleigh via Elizabeth City, N.C. In the fall of 2014 the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, and the Hampton Roads Business Roundtable, in which we participate, all endorsed the future Interstate initiative. The support in Hampton Roads complements strong support in North Carolina, including the support of N.C. Governor McCrory, NCDOT and NC Secretary of Transportation Tata, the Regional Transportation Alliance (RTA) business leadership group, the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, and several other partners.

We believe that the interstate connector from Hampton Roads to Raleigh will be an economic engine for communities all along the corridor and a major route for international commerce coming in and out of the Port of Virginia.

We respectfully ask you to consider signing on as an original co-sponsor of the future Interstate legislation when it is introduced. We are hopeful that the legislative language will be incorporated in the upcoming reauthorization of federal surface transportation funding and policy (MAP-21) legislation.

More detail on this initiative, which we refer to as the “future Interstate 44” initiative, can be found at [<http://www.letsgetmoving.org/i44>]. You can access a current list of supporters from NC and Virginia by clicking [here](#).

Respectfully,

*Craig Poppen*

President

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*Virginia Beach Vision, Inc. is a non-partisan, issue oriented group of prominent business and civic leaders dedicated to providing private sector leadership that will create a vision and advance initiatives necessary to the City of Virginia Beach and the Hampton Roads region's future development, prosperity and quality of life.*