



January 20, 2023

Hampton Roads Caucus, Southside Members:

On behalf of Chesapeake Alliance, Greater Norfolk Corporation, Portsmouth Partnership and Virginia Beach Vision, which represent the senior business and civic leaders in our respective communities who collaborate on regional issues, we ask that the **2023 General Assembly consider developing tools and funding to support toll mitigation to reverse the adverse impact of the two Elizabeth River Crossings**, not only on Portsmouth and Norfolk economies, but the entire Hampton Roads ecosystem.

We applaud the introduction of HJ 539 by Delegate Mundon King, SB 522 by Senator Lucas, and HB 567 by Delegate Don Scott, to begin addressing this issue. However, they are not enough to fully alleviate the regional impact.

The existing tolls and their future escalation not only have a negative impact on the economy, but also impact other road corridors as citizens seek alternative routes to bypass the tunnel.

To foster regional economic vitality and ensure workforce success, the Commonwealth must fund all road corridors to ensure access throughout the Hampton Roads region. The funding is imperative to mitigate the unequal financial burden imposed by escalating tolls on the Elizabeth River Crossings.

Respectfully submitted,

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