



January 16, 2023

Dear Hampton Roads Caucus, Southside Members:

We represent four pro-business groups in the Southside Hampton Roads Region: Chesapeake Alliance, Greater Norfolk Corporation, Portsmouth Partnership and Virginia Beach Vision. **Today we are writing in support of Governor Youngkin’s proposed funding for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) and ask for your active support of this allocation throughout the General Assembly’s budgeting process.**

Governor Youngkin has included in his budget amendments, as announced in December, the allocation of an additional \$350 million to the VBRSP, growing the state’s 2022-24 budget allocation of \$159 million. On January 16, the Governor announced \$90 million for the development of 21 industrial sites in the Commonwealth. Among those were Chesapeake’s Coastal Virginia Commerce Park (\$750,000) and Norfolk’s Fairwinds Landing (\$3.3 million).

These funds will expedite the critical development of large, competitive project-ready sites in Hampton Roads and across the Commonwealth. Virginia Business Magazine reported that between 2016 and September 2022, “Virginia missed out on more than 52,000 jobs and \$120 billion in capita expenditures at least in part because companies were unable to find acceptable ready-to-build locations.” Virginia’s ability to compete for such mega-site projects must be addressed.

Economic Development is crucial to the long-term success of our region. Where we can obtain assistance in accessing state funding for industrial and commercial development in our localities, we can work to achieve long-term economic growth for Hampton Roads and the Commonwealth. Toward that, we are urging our General Assembly members to continue finding ways to support the development of business and jobs in our region by way of financial assistance with site-ready locations in our localities.

Thank you for your consideration and your efforts to best represent the interests of Hampton Roads.

Respectfully,

David Ropp

David Ropp
President
Chesapeake Alliance
PO Box 5008
Chesapeake, VA 23324

Don Winchester

Don Winchester
President
Greater Norfolk Corporation
101 W. Main St., Suite 1000A
Norfolk, VA 23510

Johnny Garcia

Dr. Johnny Garcia
President
Portsmouth Partnership
719 High St.
Portsmouth, VA 23704

Delceno Miles

Delceno Miles
President
Virginia Beach Vision
5101 Cleveland Street, # 202
Virginia Beach, VA 23462