



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine  
Governor

October 2, 2009

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

Thank you for your letter regarding Virginia's implementation of transportation and infrastructure funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In the last six years, Virginia has restored trust and accountability to our transportation programs in large part by establishing a transparent and open process for the selection of projects. We are very deliberately and thoughtfully addressing transportation challenges in the Commonwealth.

As you may know, Virginia has committed more than \$1 billion in ARRA funding to new infrastructure projects—including highway projects—around the Commonwealth. Rather than expanding projects already in the pipeline, we are focusing our transportation funding on strategic investments that will create jobs, address infrastructure needs, and provide new transportation solutions for Virginians.

With declining transportation revenue in Virginia—more than \$4.6 billion in the last two years alone—the Commonwealth has not maintained a “wish list” construction program. As a result, unlike a number of other states, Virginia has not simply substituted ARRA funds into existing projects. Instead, following a public comment period encouraging citizen participation, we have used a transparent and collaborative process to select new highway maintenance, highway construction, rail, and transit projects needed statewide.

At the same time, Virginia has met all the federal transportation requirements for obligating and reporting ARRA funding. We have received approval for projects every two weeks on average and as of the end of September we have 93 approved highway projects with funding of \$389 million. Later this month, the Commonwealth Transportation Board will award contracts impacting more than 100 additional ARRA design-build bridge and highway projects.

The Honorable James L. Oberstar  
October 2, 2009  
Page 2

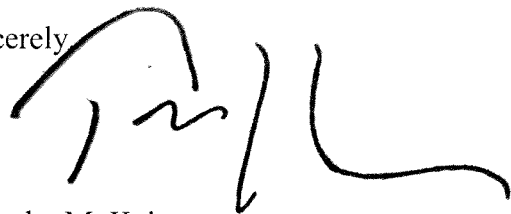
While Virginia might appear to fall behind other states according to the Committee's calculations, we assure you the Commonwealth is implementing ARRA funds according to the intent of the legislation by creating new jobs with accountability and transparency. At the end of September, Virginia ranked in the middle of states on the rate of obligation of ARRA funds to projects according to reporting by the United State Department of Transportation.

The Commonwealth is grateful for our partnership with the federal government to help advance transportation improvements throughout Virginia. A wide range of multimodal transportation improvements are currently underway in Virginia—including the \$2.6 billion Dulles rail project under construction thanks in part to your support. In addition, the award-winning \$1.4 billion I-495 HOT Lanes project is under construction and last Wednesday we celebrated the expansion of passenger rail service to Central Virginia.

We are continuing to make progress on infrastructure—and we're proud of the reputation we've built as an innovative leader. Our deliberate and thoughtful approach has earned Virginia recognition as the "Best State for Business" by Forbes Magazine four years in a row and we recently topped the nation in being named "Infrastructure State of the Year" for our strategic investments in transportation.

There is no doubt transportation remains a serious challenge in Virginia. But working together with our private partners and elected, corporate, and community leaders, we're making improvements that will benefit Virginians in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kaine', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Timothy M. Kaine  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia