



Tyler Craddock
Director of Government Affairs
Direct Dial – 804.237.1455
Cell – 804.357.7197
t.craddock@vachamber.com

March 23, 2009

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

On behalf of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, we urge you sign into law House Bill 1788 and Senate Bill 1276, both of which deal with onsite alternative septic systems. As you may know, both of these bills would clarify the authority for approval of onsite alternative systems by preventing local governments from prohibiting systems approved by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

At the heart of this issue is the notion of local governments assuming power over an issue and exercising legislative discretion over what is in essence a regulatory question, not a local legislative matter. Like the process for promulgating and maintaining the Uniform Statewide Building Code, the process for regulations governing onsite alternative systems should be consistent and be based on sound science. As such, it is clear that VDH is best suited to handle these regulations, not local governments.

These two bills, House Bill 1788 and Senate Bill 1276, represent an opportunity to clarify the law with regard to jurisdiction over these issues in a way that promotes uniformity across the Commonwealth and predictability for Virginia businesses. For that reason, we strongly encourage you to sign House Bill 1788 and Senate Bill 1276 into law.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Craddock". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tyler Craddock
Director of Government Affairs