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February 25, 2010

Committee on General Laws and Technology  
Senate of Virginia  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce to urge your support for House Bill 426, which will be coming before the Senate General Laws and Technology Committee.

This legislation, strongly supported by various sectors of the Virginia business community, would limit the use of cooperative procurement on construction projects exceeding \$200,000 to those projects that are within 75 miles of the locality holding the contract. This limitation would also apply to architectural and engineering services, two items that go hand-in-hand with construction.

Construction of capital projects is unlike other goods and services procured by governments. Construction costs vary across different regions of the Commonwealth. This legislation will help prevent a situation where you could have taxpayers paying higher costs for construction projects because a contract bid out in another region of Virginia factors in construction costs that are higher than those in the region where the work is taking place.

This legislation also helps ensure that local businesses are aware of procurement opportunities in their own region. If procurement takes place in a locality far away and for undetermined local governments, it is less likely that many local businesses will have knowledge of or an ability to compete for work that might be taking place in their communities.

We urge your support for this legislation and thank you for your consideration of our position.

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

cc: The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith