

February 28, 2010

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Office of the Governor
1111 E. Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

HB 535/Nixon

Dear Governor:

I am writing to request that you sign HB 535 into law. HB 535 postpones the scheduled increase (from \$2,700 to \$3,000) in the minimum earnings amount that an employee must have to be eligible for unemployment benefits. This increase was authorized in 2008 by HB 547/Nixon and supported by business.

This bill marks the second time in two years that the General Assembly has been asked to delay the increase. The business community has supported those requests, recognizing the impact a sluggish economy might have on the few individuals this measure would remove from the unemployment rolls.

It is our hope that the economy will soon improve and that additional postponements will not be requested or necessary.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Keith D. Cheatham
Vice President - Government Affairs

cc: The Honorable Samuel A. Nixon, Jr.