



THE VOICE of BUSINESS

March 18, 2020

Dear Members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation:

I write today regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and the impact this outbreak could have on the health and safety of the business community and all Virginians. The Virginia Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) appreciates Congress' efforts to address the health and economic consequences from the spread of COVID-19 across the country and its work to provide targeted relief to workers, businesses, and families during these unprecedented events.

Since reports of the first COVID-19 cases in Virginia, the Chamber has been actively tracking federal and state guidance for how to most appropriately prevent the spread of the virus. The Chamber is also working with the Governor's office on appropriate responses to the pandemic and has engaged its membership through a communications campaign to educate businesses on best practices to protect employees in the workplace and at home. The Chamber is encouraging all businesses to recognize the nuances of this situation and provide flexible options for their employees at this time, so they can appropriately care for themselves and family members.

Over the following weeks, all levels of government and the business community must coalesce around targeted policies that will allow Virginia to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 outbreak. As federal policymakers develop new strategies to assist businesses and their employees, I request that you consider and enact the following proposals:

- Cancelling the payment of payroll taxes paid by employers through May 2020.
- Expanding federal loan programs for small business with fewer than 500 employees.
- Creating credit facilities to provide loans and loan guarantees to employers with more than 500 employees experiencing significant revenue losses.
- Continuing operation of government services that promote the health and safety of all Americans and ensure the continuity of trade and commerce.

At this critical time, it is imperative that members of the business community stand united in their response and advance recommendations that protect the wellbeing of our workers and families and ensure the financial health and longevity of our businesses and employers.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to partnering with you to develop a strong response to this outbreak.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry E. DuVal". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Barry E. DuVal
President and CEO