

**INTERIM REPORT OF
THE COMMISSION TO**

**Propose Recommendations
to Promote and Stimulate
Economic Development in the
Blue Ridge Region of Virginia**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



HOUSE DOCUMENT NO. 60

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
1992**

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The Honorable Frank W. Nolen, *Vice Chairman*
The Honorable C. Richard Cranwell
The Honorable Willard R. Finney
The Honorable Thomas M. Jackson, Jr.
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
The Honorable Lacey E. Putney
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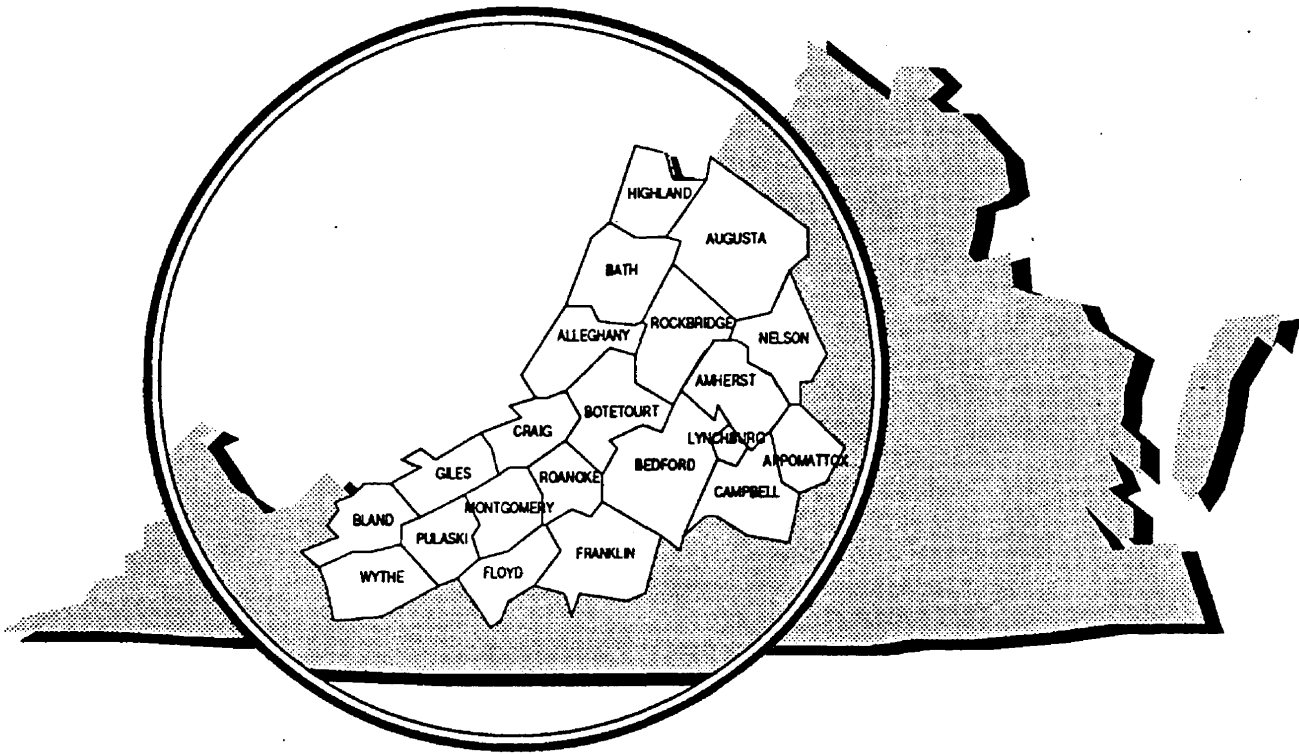
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Blue Ridge Region of Virginia



COUNTIES

Alleghany	Floyd
Amherst	Franklin
Appomattox	Giles
Augusta	Highland
Bath	Montgomery
Bedford	Nelson
Bland	Pulaski
Botetourt	Roanoke
Campbell	Rockbridge
Craig	Wythe

CITIES

Bedford	Radford
Buena Vista	Roanoke
Clifton Forge	Salem
Covington	Staunton
Lexington	Waynesboro
Lynchburg	

TOWNS

28, including Blacksburg,
Pulaski and Wytheville

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**Interim Report of the Commission to
Propose Recommendations to Promote and Stimulate
Economic Development in the Blue Ridge Region
of Virginia**

**To
The Governor and the General Assembly of Virginia**

**Richmond, Virginia
April 1992**

**TO: The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder, Governor of Virginia
and
The General Assembly of Virginia**

I. Authority for Study

In an attempt to ensure a promising economic future for the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth, the 1991 General Assembly adopted House Joint Resolution No. 451 (HJR 451). The resolution established a 23-member commission to propose recommendations to promote and stimulate economic development in the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth. The Commission's membership was composed as follows: six members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker; five members of the Senate, appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; and twelve citizen members from the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth, including two representatives each from local governments and from the business and industrial communities, two local economic development officials, one representative each from the banking community, a major utility, and a four-year institution of higher education, and one community college president, all appointed by the Governor.

Delegate Joan H. Munford served as chairman of the Commission, with Senator Frank W. Nolen acting as vice-chairman. The resolution directed the Commission to submit its findings and recommendations to the 1992 Session of the General Assembly.

II. Objectives and Study Design

Although economic development of the southern states and certain regions of the Commonwealth has been the focus of numerous national, regional and state studies, none of these valuable studies have directly addressed the exceptional challenges facing the Blue Ridge region of

Virginia. Thus, HJR 451 created a commission to explore ways to promote and stimulate the economic growth of the Blue Ridge region and defined it to include the following 20 counties:

Alleghany	Floyd
Amherst	Franklin
Appomattox	Giles
Augusta	Highland
Bath	Montgomery
Bedford	Nelson
Bland	Pulaski
Botetourt	Roanoke
Campbell	Rockbridge
Craig	Wythe

The geographic area included in the study also encompassed the following 11 cities:

Bedford	Radford
Buena Vista	Roanoke
Clifton Forge	Salem
Covington	Staunton
Lexington	Waynesboro
Lynchburg	

Twenty-eight towns were also considered in the study, including Blacksburg, Pulaski, Vinton and Wytheville.

The Commission focused on a wide range of issues in an attempt to determine the strengths, weaknesses and characteristics of the Blue Ridge region and spent a great deal of time analyzing specific data concerning the potential for its economic growth. The resolution specifically directed the Commission to consider individual and regional efforts which might be conducted in partnership with state government, educational institutions and the private sector; expansion and diversification of existing industry; regional data collection and analysis, information services and communication needs; marketing strategies to promote tourism, business and industry; and initiatives to enhance the education and training of the workforce.

In addition, the Commission received testimony from the Secretary of Economic Development and the Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources and from representatives of the Departments of Economic Development, Conservation and Recreation and Waste Management. Representatives from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) also presented testimony to the Commission. Lastly, the Commission sought the input and expertise of economic development specialists to explore traditional as well as innovative methods of spurring economic development.

In order to work more effectively and efficiently, the Commission established six task forces to address the specific issues and concerns stated in HJR 451:

- Partnerships Between State and Local Governments, Educational Institutions and the Private Sector
- Marketing Strategies to Promote Business and Industry
- Expansion and Diversification of Existing Industry
- Strategies to Promote Tourism and Market Local Attractions
- Initiatives to Enhance the Education and Training of the Workforce
- Regional Data Collection and Analysis, Information Services and Communication Needs

Each task force was comprised of Commission members and ad hoc appointees drawn from regional entities in the Blue Ridge region and met at least once a month to explore issues in detail. (See Appendix E.) The task forces reported their findings and recommendations to the full Commission at its final meeting of 1991.

III. Promoting Economic Growth in the Blue Ridge Region

A. INTRODUCTION: THE EMERGING "THIRD WAVE" OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

In the past five to ten years, internal economic development has begun to focus on a new set of strategic issues such as quality education, innovative technology, "cutting edge" infrastructures, capacity building, global sophistication and creative state government policies.¹ Although economic progress has been achieved in some areas of the South, millions of Southerners still suffer in poverty. Nine million new jobs are projected to be created in the South by the year 2000; however, much of the workforce is currently performing jobs which are or will soon be obsolete, receiving no training or retraining for the next century's technical and service careers.² In its 1986 report, the Southern Growth Policies Board noted that "too many are left behind with education and skills which better prepare them to function in Henry Grady's [editor of the Atlanta Constitution] Atlanta of 1886 than in Andrew Young's of today."³ Thus, education and training and retraining of the workforce must be a priority in the southern states in order to ensure economic prosperity in the 21st century.

Education is one of the areas that experts agree underlies the emerging "Third Wave" in economic development. The Third Wave concept emerged in 1990 and was so named by Bob Friedman of the Corporation for Enterprise Development, a Washington, D.C.-based research and consulting firm, and has been expanded upon in the last few years. Long-term investments are crucial to the success of the Third

¹The Report of the 1986 Commission on the Future of the South, "*Halfway Home and A Long Way to Go*," Southern Growth Policies Board, 1988, p. 1.

²*Id.*

³*Id.*

Wave. These investments include (i) investments in people through education and workforce skills; (ii) investments in distressed communities through assistance for the people and businesses in those communities; and (iii) investments in programs that encourage business and local government to work together.⁴

Until 1991, most states chose to deal with the recession by increasing spending for economic development; however, since 1991, legislatures in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and North Carolina, to name a few, have cut the budgets of their economic development agencies and programs. This new perspective on economic development concentrates on substance and delivery of programs and services. The Third Wave approach demands radical restructuring of state programs that includes the following principles to increase scale, quality and accountability:

- Relying on competition to ensure quality services from different providers, instead of relying on government as the sole supplier of services;
- Providing automatic feedback from businesses, industries, and communities;
- Providing comprehensive services at the local level;
- Utilizing incentives to encourage businesses and industries to build their competitiveness and capacity to do business; and
- Encouraging relationships between service providers and the communities, businesses and industries that need them.⁵

Critics of the Third Wave argue that it does not aid distressed rural and urban areas and their residents; however, several American states and European countries have seen positive results. For example, in North Carolina, the legislature established the Rural Economic Development Center and funds it with 2 million dollars per year. The private sector has also contributed over \$2.5 million to the Center. The Center's programs include (i) improving the quality of education, (ii) venture capital, (iii) rural leadership, (iv) capital financing for women and minorities, (v) community development corporations, (vi) a micro-enterprise loan fund, and (vii) flexible manufacturing networks.⁶ In 1991, Virginia chose to follow North Carolina's lead and established the Center on Rural Development (CORD) to guide economic growth in rural Virginia over the long term. In Governor L. Douglas Wilder's Strategic Plan for Rural Development, CORD's mission is defined as one of developing prototypes and innovative pilot programs in the areas of financing alternatives, new rural economies and expansion of traditional rural economies, to be tested on a local or regional basis initially and expanded to other regions of the Commonwealth if successful.

Whether the Third Wave is a major breakthrough in economic thinking or merely a new way of looking at old techniques is yet to be determined; however, the Wave is generating much analysis and discussion and is certain to play a role in defining state economic development policy for the remainder of the 1990s and into the 21st century.

⁴"The Third Wave of Economic Development," *State Legislatures*, November 1991, p. 34.

⁵Id.

⁶Id. at 35.

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMONWEALTH: RECENT STUDIES.

How is the Commonwealth fairing in this era of innovative thinking concerning economic development and growth? The 1991 Development Report Card for the States, published by the Corporation for Enterprise Development, grades, or assesses, the 50 states in four categories: economic performance, business vitality, development capacity and state policy. Virginia's report card was above average, with the State receiving three Bs and one C; the C being in state policy (see Table 1).⁷ The Report noted that the southern states, including Virginia, are slowly rebuilding industries and the investment outlook is "long-term investment opportunity, suitable for patient investors only." The report added that Virginia, with a B, had the best development capacity grade of the southern states, as its human, technology, financial, and infrastructure resources make it competitive with other states in attracting new businesses and industries.⁸ For a comparison of the other 49 states to the Commonwealth, see Table 2.

Table 1

Virginia

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX

Employment Subindex	Earnings & Job Quality Subindex	Equity Subindex	1991 INDEX GRADE
B	B	C	B

BUSINESS VITALITY INDEX

Business Competitiveness Subindex	Entrepreneurial Energy Subindex	Structural Diversity Subindex	1991 INDEX GRADE
D	A	B	B

DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY INDEX

Human Resources Subindex	Technology Resources Subindex	Financial Resources Subindex	Infra./Amenity Resources Subindex	1991 INDEX GRADE
C	C	C	B	B

STATE POLICY INDEX

Governance Subindex	Workforce Development Subindex	Technology & Innovation Subindex	International Marketing Subindex	Development Finance Subindex	Local Econ. Dev. Assit. Subindex	Infrastructure and Amenities Subindex	1991 INDEX GRADE
F	C	A	C	D	A	B	C

SOURCE: *The 1991 Development Report Card for the States.*

⁷The 1991 Development Report Card for the States, Corporation for Enterprise Development, April 1991, p. 1.

⁸Id. at 10.

Table 2

The 1991 Development Report Card

	Economic Performance Index	Business Vitality Index	Development Capacity Index	State Policy Index
Alabama	D	B	D	D
Alaska	D	B	C	C
Arizona	C	C	B	D
Arkansas	D	D	F	C
California	C	A	A	A
Colorado	D	A	A	C
Connecticut	A	A	A	A
Delaware	A	B	A	C
Florida	C	B	D	C
Georgia	C	C	C	D
Hawaii	A	D	B	C
Idaho	C	D	C	D
Illinois	C	C	B	C
Indiana	C	C	D	A
Iowa	C	D	C	A
Kansas	B	D	C	B
Kentucky	F	C	F	C
Louisiana	F	F	F	F
Maine	A	B	D	B
Maryland	A	A	A	A
Massachusetts	C	B	A	B
Michigan	C	D	C	A
Minnesota	B	A	A	A
Mississippi	F	C	F	B
Missouri	D	C	C	B
Montana	F	D	D	D
Nebraska	B	C	C	F
Nevada	A	B	B	D
New Hampshire	A	A	B	F
New Jersey	A	A	A	B
New Mexico	D	B	D	F
New York	D	A	C	A
North Carolina	B	A	C	C
North Dakota	C	F	D	C
Ohio	C	D	B	A
Oklahoma	D	F	D	B
Oregon	B	C	B	B
Pennsylvania	B	B	A	B
Rhode Island	B	C	B	B
South Carolina	C	D	D	C
South Dakota	C	C	C	F
Tennessee	C	C	D	C
Texas	D	C	C	D
Utah	B	A	A	D
Vermont	B	C	B	C
Virginia	B	B	B	C
Washington	A	C	A	C
West Virginia	F	F	F	D
Wisconsin	A	D	C	A
Wyoming	C	F	C	C

SOURCE: *The 1991 Development Report Card for the States.*

Over the past few years, the Virginia General Assembly has continued to address the issues of economic growth and development through several legislative studies and commissions. In 1986, House Joint Resolution No. 132 established a joint subcommittee to review Virginia's economic development laws. The committee issued its report in 1988 (see HD 38 (1988)). In 1989, the General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 262 which provided for the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to examine the Commonwealth's economic development policies and the organization, operations, management and performance of the Department of Economic Development (DED). In House Document No. 39 (1991), JLARC recommended that the Secretary of Economic Development be required to develop and implement a comprehensive economic development policy for the Commonwealth. The General Assembly agreed and passed House Bill 1336 in 1991.

Interest in regional economic development initiatives has also been addressed by the legislature by the creation of two regional economic development commissions. House Joint Resolution No. 106, passed in 1990, created the Southside Economic Development Commission to propose recommendations to improve and enhance the economic growth of the Southside region of Virginia. The Commission issued an interim report in 1991 (HD 42 (1991)) and its life was extended by the passage of legislation in both 1991 and 1992.

The second regional economic development entity is the subject of this report. The Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission was created in 1991 by House Joint Resolution No. 451 with a mission to improve and enhance the economic development of the Blue Ridge region, and the 1992 General Assembly agreed to extend the life of the Commission for one year. (see Appendices A and B.)

During 1991 a joint subcommittee to study the measures necessary to ensure Virginia's economic recovery (HJR 433 (1991)) was created. The committee, chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, issued its findings in House Document No. 37 (1992).

C. AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROACH FOR THE BLUE RIDGE REGION.

The study conducted by the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission has focused on the unique characteristics of the Blue Ridge region. The region has relatively high unemployment and dropout rates, experiencing minimal growth. (see Tables 3, 4, and 5) The region experienced a 10 percent increase in labor force between 1980 and 1990; however, during this same period, the state labor force increased by nearly 25 percent. Within the Blue Ridge region, there was a wide disparity among those that lost workforce members and those that gained significantly. Bland County saw a 126 percent gain; the City of Waynesboro saw a 51 percent gain; and the City of Staunton boasted a 26 percent gain. In contrast, Bath County suffered a loss of 62 percent, Highland County a loss of 37 percent and the City of Lexington a decline

of 19 percent. All of this activity occurred in 10 years. However, during this same period, employment increased 11 percent for the region and 26 percent for the state, while unemployment decreased 6 percent in the region between 1980-1990.

These statistics clearly demonstrate the disparity which exists in the region; however, they also demonstrate that a skilled, conscientious labor force is already in place in the Blue Ridge region and available to companies which choose to locate, relocate or expand in the region. For example, in 1991, when New River Castings sought to fill 14 positions, it received over 800 applications, and when C&P Telephone required 100 new employees to staff its new assistance center in 1990, over 1,800 individuals applied. Also, with the location of a number of universities and colleges in the area, the Blue Ridge region produces an abundance of professional and highly-skilled workers seeking employment. This availability of potential employees offers employers located in the region an extremely attractive labor market.

The Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission has attempted to deal with these and other issues by viewing the region as a whole and recommending steps to promote all the localities included in this study.

Table 3

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
AND THE BLUE RIDGE REGION
January 1991 through March 1991**

	<u>JANUARY 1991</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 1991</u>	<u>MARCH 1991</u>
VIRGINIA	5.8	6.5	6.2
Counties:			
Alleghany	10.4	11.0	9.9
Amherst	5.7	5.0	6.1
Appomattox	6.6	6.3	6.5
Augusta	8.4	9.0	9.5
Bath	25.8	19.8	24.1
Bedford	5.9	5.6	5.7
Bland	6.5	8.4	5.1
Botetourt	3.9	5.4	5.4
Campbell	6.5	5.6	5.3
Craig	8.6	10.7	11.1
Floyd	9.5	10.6	9.9
Franklin	9.3	12.2	10.7
Giles	12.0	11.9	12.5
Highland	12.8	15.0	10.7
Montgomery	8.2	9.3	9.5
Nelson	7.1	8.2	8.4
Pulaski	12.2	12.7	11.8
Roanoke	2.9	3.5	3.9
Rockbridge	7.0	7.1	6.6
Wythe	9.6	11.9	9.8

Table 3
(continued)

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH
AND THE BLUE RIDGE REGION
January 1991 through March 1991**

	<u>JANUARY 1991</u>	<u>FEBRUARY 1991</u>	<u>MARCH 1991</u>
Cities:			
Bedford	5.1	5.1	4.8
Buena Vista	9.4	10.7	9.2
Clifton Forge	9.4	10.0	7.0
Covington	11.7	11.9	11.8
Lexington	5.3	3.3	4.9
Lynchburg	5.1	4.5	4.6
Radford	10.2	10.4	9.6
Roanoke	4.7	5.9	6.0
Salem	3.6	4.7	5.1
Staunton	5.1	4.5	4.6
Waynesboro	5.8	6.8	7.7

SOURCE: *Virginia Employment Commission.*

Table 4

COMPARATIVE DATA ON PUBLIC EDUCATION
IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE BLUE RIDGE REGION
1988 - 89 SCHOOL YEAR

Locality	Number of Students*	Pupil-Teacher Ratio	Average Annual Salaries of Classroom Teachers	Graduates As a % of Ninth Graders 4 Years Earlier	Graduates Continuing Education	Per Pupil Expenditure for Operations
VIRGINIA	980,475	16.4	\$28,976	75.5%	70.3%	\$4,390
<u>Counties</u>						
Alleghany ¹	3,193	14.3	\$25,836	76.3%	53.1%	\$4,051
Amherst	4,557	14.6	24,964	90.3	60.1	3,622
Appomattox	2,287	14.6	23,492	79.1	49.0	3,406
Augusta	9,462	14.3	25,281	75.5	59.4	3,877
Bath	858	10.0	23,049	79.1	58.8	6,131
Bedford	7,972	15.3	23,979	82.0	59.0	3,619
Bland	1,074	13.9	23,413	77.1	49.5	3,852
Botetourt	4,171	14.8	24,584	75.9	69.3	3,602
Campbell	8,271	13.1	25,435	76.5	64.7	3,471
Craig	683	14.6	24,395	82.1	58.2	3,725
Floyd	1,886	13.5	22,306	82.1	47.9	3,611
Franklin	6,248	15.4	24,826	75.5	64.3	3,451
Giles	2,854	14.5	25,870	101.1	53.7	3,774
Highland	386	7.0	19,844	84.6	51.5	4,511
Montgomery	8,517	14.2	25,956	77.8	65.0	4,078
Nelson	2,080	12.6	23,419	63.6	40.3	4,122
Pulaski	5,947	15.3	27,320	78.1	56.8	3,602
Roanoke	13,243	13.4	29,517	84.0	75.6	4,508
Rockbridge ²	2,960	12.8	24,472	88.8	68.4	3,972
Wythe	4,491	13.8	25,373	79.6	68.9	3,747

¹Includes City of Clifton Forge.

²Rockbridge County data include Lexington City secondary pupils.

*Includes all K-12, special education and post-graduate students enrolled on September 30, 1988.

Table 4
(continued)

COMPARATIVE DATA ON PUBLIC EDUCATION
IN THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE BLUE RIDGE REGION
1988 - 89 SCHOOL YEAR

Locality	Number of Students*	Pupil-Teacher Ratio	Average Annual Salaries of Classroom Teachers	Graduates As a % of Ninth Graders 4 Years Earlier Education	Graduates Continuing Education	Per Pupil Expenditure for Operations
<u>Cities</u>						
Bedford ³	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Buena Vista	1,193	14.1	\$26,656	95.0%	52.1%	\$3,734
Clifton Forge ⁴	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Covington	1,053	12.3	25,484	75.0	64.1	4,417
Lexington ⁵	469	11.8	23,019	-----	-----	3,718
Lynchburg	9,337	14.6	28,382	77.7	73.9	4,002
Radford	1,536	11.7	28,793	70.3	84.4	4,218
Roanoke	13,192	9.4	28,921	67.2	61.3	4,642
Salem	3,531	13.1	29,300	78.1	80.6	4,093
Staunton	3,059	12.7	27,216	76.5	66.7	3,749
Waynesboro	2,702	14.5	29,051	79.0	51.6	4,008

³Bedford City data included in Bedford County data.

⁴Clifton Forge data included in Alleghany County data.

⁵Lexington secondary pupils included in Rockbridge County data.

*Includes all K-12, special education and post-graduate students enrolled on September 30, 1988.

SOURCE: Department of Education: Facing Up - 24, August 1990

Table 5

**BLUE RIDGE REGION POPULATION
1990 CENSUS
(PL 94-171, 1/22/91)**

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Ranking in State</u>
<u>COUNTIES:</u> ♦		
Alleghany	13,176	64
Amherst	28,578	36
Appomattox	12,298	69
Augusta	54,677	16
Bath	4,799	93
Bedford	45,656	22
Bland	6,514	89
Botetourt	24,992	43
Campbell	47,572	18
Craig	4,372	94
Floyd	12,005	71
Franklin	39,549	25
Giles	16,366	56
Highland	2,635	95
Montgomery	73,913	8
Nelson	12,778	67
Pulaski	34,496	27
Roanoke	79,332	7
Rockbridge	18,350	51
Wythe	25,466	41
<u>CITIES:</u> ♦		
Bedford	6,073	38
Buena Vista	6,406	37
Clifton Forge	4,679	40
Covington	6,991	33
Lexington	6,959	34
Lynchburg	66,049	10
Radford	15,940	27
Roanoke	96,397	9
Salem	23,756	18
Staunton	24,461	17
Waynesboro	18,549	23

♦ There are 95 counties in Virginia.

♦ There are 41 cities in Virginia.

SOURCE: PL 94-171, 1/22/91.

In its deliberations, the Commission heard testimony from an economic development expert on the five major changes in the United States which have and will continue to affect economic development in the Commonwealth and specifically the Blue Ridge region:⁹

- Increased productivity and conversion of agriculture to a market-oriented industry have increased the United States' capacity to produce products, while greatly reducing the country's capacity to employ people. The conversion has wreaked havoc on many rural communities.
- The manufacturing industry, like the agricultural industry, has grown and undergone structural changes to enhance productivity, resulting in job destruction and reduced capacity to employ people. One of the results of this restructuring has been increased competition for the United States in the international market.
- Services industries are expanding, and employment capacity in these industries is increasing. Thus, new employment is arising from service-producing industries, not manufacturing industries. In fact, recent surveys have shown that 62 percent of future economic growth will come in technical and managerial areas.
- Local and state economies are tied to national and international markets. Thus, the Blue Ridge region should focus on these broader markets and consider investments of foreign capital when discussing economic development issues.
- Economic growth does not occur in an even distribution. For example, the 1970s produced growth in the rural areas of the country, while during the 1980s the metropolitan areas experienced significant economic growth. The Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission should determine where growth is most likely to succeed and concentrate its efforts on those localities.

In the future, the requirements for economic growth for the Blue Ridge region, and the Commonwealth, will change, and the infrastructure must expand to accommodate this growth. Business and industry will consider the following factors concerning a locality when making location or expansion decisions: quality of life; availability of health services; quality of education; and quality of environment, such as clean air.

The future of the workforce is looking dim. More experienced and skilled people will be needed in the workforce in the next decade, and these people will not be available if the status quo is maintained. Localities, as well as states as a whole, need to determine how to increase labor productivity.

⁹Testimony of Dr. Charles E. Bishop, president emeritus of the University of Houston system, September 24, 1991, Commission meeting.

The workforce requirements for the year 2000 will be brains, not brawn, due to computerization and advancements in technology. One-half of new jobs will require a college education. The workforce of the future will need to know not only the "3 Rs" but also the "3 Cs": conceptualization--the ability to think; computerization; and collaboration--the ability to work in a team to produce a product or service.

How does the current labor force compare with these requirements? It does not. Today, a large percentage of the national labor force does not have a high school diploma. One in five Americans cannot read well enough to participate in entry-level training. Rural areas especially are experiencing high rates of illiteracy, high dropout rates and lack of a college-educated workforce. Currently, America is perpetuating a permanent mass of unemployable people. Due to these problems, 30 percent of American companies predict workforce deficiencies in the next five years.

Economic development experts agree that localities and states need to improve their education systems, expand Head Start and other early education programs and cooperative programs between secondary schools and community colleges and develop scientists and engineers, if they desire to prepare the workforce for the future and create a favorable climate for business and industry.

IV. Work of the Commission

A. INTRODUCTION: STUDY PLAN.

Realizing the seriousness and magnitude of its charge at its first meeting the Commission immediately created six task forces to provide in-depth study and review of specific topics of concern to the region. These included: partnerships between state and local governments, educational institutions and the private sector; marketing strategies to promote business and industry; expansion and diversification of existing industry; strategies to promote tourism and market local attractions; initiatives to enhance the education and training of the workforce; and regional data collection and analysis, information services and communication needs. The six task forces were comprised of both Commission members and ad hoc appointees drawn from regional entities in the Blue Ridge region (see Appendix E). Each of the six work groups met at least once a month to receive testimony, deliberate and develop its recommendations for presentation to the Commission. At its November 26, 1991, meeting, the Commission voted to adopt the recommendations of the individual task forces.

The Commission met four times, at various locations in the Blue Ridge region, to consider issues of economic development and growth and to formulate a legislative package for introduction during the 1992 Session of the General Assembly.

B. TESTIMONY.

In 1991, the Commission heard testimony from a number of state and governmental officials, as well as educators and members of the private sector. In his presentation to the Commission, the Secretary of Economic Development stressed that there is no "quick fix" for the long term economic future of Virginia or the Blue Ridge region. Virginia needs a long-term sustaining effort to help it out of its current situation. Solid economic progress requires up-front investment, continuing and long-term investment and commitment, and even pain at times. The Blue Ridge has continued to take this approach. For example, in industrial development, the region has had effective industrial recruitment efforts where it has put money up-front without immediate return. Now, that investment is helping to sustain the region in a very difficult time of economic downturn, and the Blue Ridge region has not been affected as severely as other regions of the Commonwealth. At the state level, through a series of administrations, the state's economic development efforts have focused on the need for long-term investments in a number of different areas: industrial recruitment, trade and tourism.

As for industrial recruitment efforts, the state maintains a very active sales force which calls on domestic and international businesses on a daily basis. The list of business prospects is developed several different ways. First, in response to specific inquiries. Second, in response to electronic or printed media marketing efforts. Last, some contacts are just "cold calls," where the marketing representative just takes a chance. When those calls are made, Virginia is presented as a whole. No particular region of the Commonwealth is initially targeted by the representative. The representative then seeks to establish what criteria the business needs for its expansion. The Department of Economic Development then attempts to match the particular areas of the state to the criteria. Often the business already has a location preference; however, the Department still suggests alternate choices. Once the business has narrowed its choice to a few specific localities, the Department places the business in contact with the appropriate local economic development agencies. In the Blue Ridge region, there are at least four such agencies. At that point, the sales burden shifts to the locality to marshal its assets and sell itself to the business.

Tourism is more of a direct consumer marketing effort. The thrust behind the state's overall tourism marketing effort is to market the state as a whole. Most tourism marketing is done through the advertising budget of the Division of Tourism. Today, that budget exceeds 6 million dollars. The Division maintains a series of electronic and print media that is used concerning a particular theme for a certain time period. Advertising used by the Division has two major purposes: (i) to generate a thematic feeling, or sense, about Virginia and (ii) to prompt people to call the toll-free telephone number contained in the advertisements, so the Division can send them the Virginia Tourism Guide. The advertising is not intended to match a particular tourist with a particular attraction or region. However, statistics show and the Division realizes that certain tourists from particular parts of the

country tend to travel to certain attractions and areas in the Commonwealth. These statistics are utilized when deciding in what markets to advertise the different regions of the State. Virginia averages a high return rate; thus, of those individuals who call and request information, a high percentage of those individuals will actually travel to the Commonwealth. Industrial tourism marketing is another aspect of tourism marketing. This includes marketing efforts geared towards group tours, hotels, motels and travel package providers. This marketing involves sales calls from marketing representatives to the various groups and associations.

The Blue Ridge is featured, not by name, but by its mountains and open air in 50 percent of the state's media advertisements. Currently, changes are being made concerning the nature of these advertisements, and three new media advertisements have been prepared. The Commission agrees that the new ads will be more beneficial to the Blue Ridge region. These ads have a more emotional appeal, featuring real Virginians going about their everyday lives. One ad is based on the water; one is based on a fiddler and the people of Galax; and the other is based around a group of singers. These ads do not attempt to market a particular attraction and thus provide more marketing opportunities for western Virginia.

In the area of trade marketing, a two-week trade mission to the Far East was recently completed. Also, the merger of the Department of World Trade into the Department of Economic Development has allowed the Commonwealth to increase its international marketing efforts. For the first time, the Commonwealth has a full-time trade promotion expert overseas. Also, the state's professional in the Far East office has been cross-trained to handle trade promotion as well as industrial recruitment. The Department's trade group is also working closely with the Virginia Port Authority to promote the use of Virginia's ports.

The Director of DED also addressed the Commission, presenting an overview of the department's functions and how each of these functions -- trade development, industrial development and tourism -- affects the Blue Ridge region. He noted that although only 13.6 percent of the Commonwealth's population resides in the Blue Ridge area, 21 percent of the new jobs created in Virginia since 1988 were created in the region. Lynchburg leads the area with the most newly created jobs; Roanoke, Roanoke County, Salem, and Pulaski follow close behind.

A discussion of the Commonwealth Community Certification Program by the Commission revealed that nine localities (Alleghany Highlands, Radford, Waynesboro; the counties of Amherst, Franklin, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe; and the Rockbridge area) in the Blue Ridge region are currently certified under this program, and five industrial shell buildings located in the region are currently for sale or lease.

A list of tourist attractions and resorts located in the Blue Ridge region was also presented to the Commission. The Commission heard testimony that \$8.1 billion and 160,000 jobs are generated by tourism in Virginia; however, the bulk of this activity is located east of

Charlottesville, due to the attractions based in that area and their large marketing budgets. Western Virginia attractions fail to generate much revenue, due to the low or nonexistent entrance fees, and these resources need to be translated into a "money making activity," according to representatives from DED. One of the area's weaknesses is lack of lodging--only 14 percent of Virginia's hotel rooms are in the Blue Ridge region.

The Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources addressed the Commission regarding the state's environmental permitting process which is currently being reviewed and improved by the Secretary of Natural Resources. The Commission agreed that economic vitality and environmental quality require that permits be issued and issued on a timely basis; however, permittees must realize that most of the state's environmental regulatory programs are developed around very specific and complex federal pollution laws. Since state laws must be compatible with the federal regulations and laws, the state regulatory agencies themselves are often frustrated with the process. For the past year, the Secretary of Natural Resources has been reviewing the permitting process and identifying positive steps that can be taken to improve the process, while maintaining the quality of the permits. The regulatory agencies have been instructed to formulate ways to simplify and stream-line their permitting processes. Also, a consultant has been hired, with federal moneys, to evaluate the permitting processes of the regulatory agencies with a goal of speeding up the process. Senate Bill 590, which was passed during the 1991 Session, has prompted the creation of the Inter-Agency Permit Assistance Group. The group's purpose is to assist businesses in obtaining the necessary environmental permits.

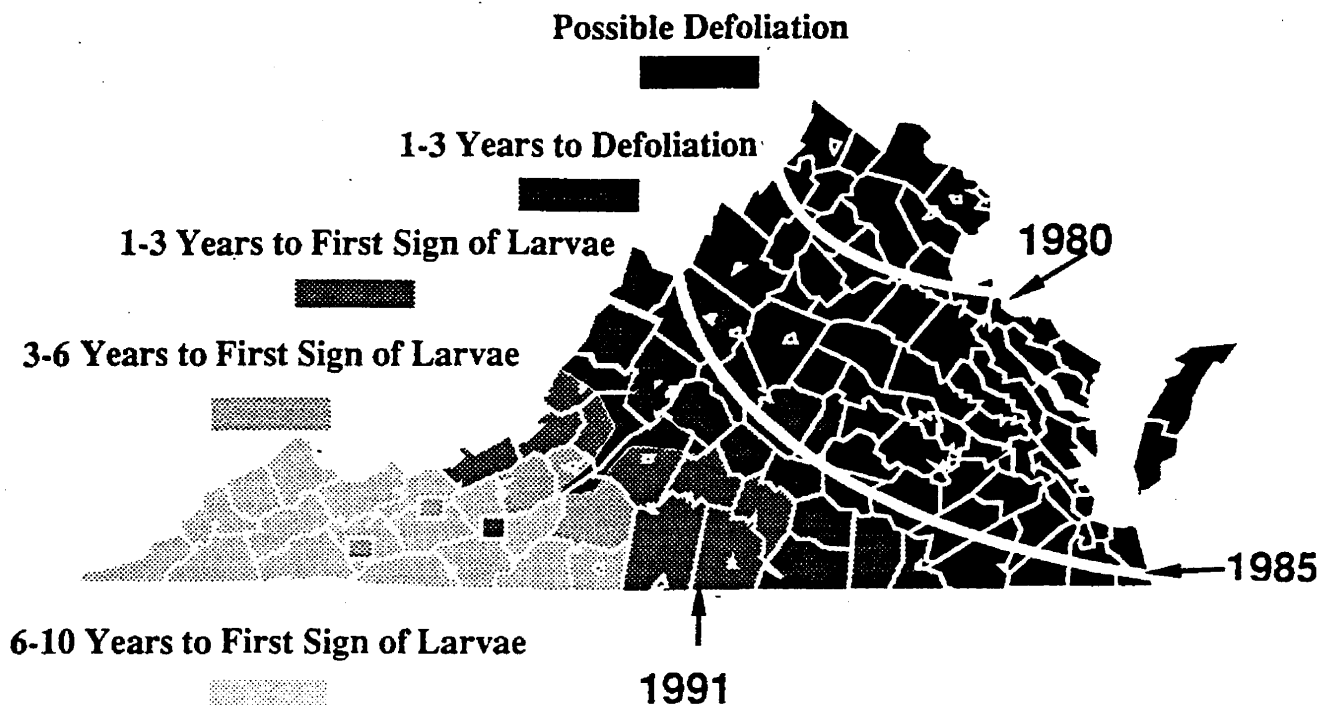
The state has also sponsored a group of seminars throughout the Commonwealth concerning the permitting process. All four of the environmental permitting agencies attended each seminar to discuss why permits are needed and what steps are necessary to obtain a permit. A *General Guide for Environmental Regulation in Virginia* has been published by the Commonwealth to assist potential licensees and *The Virginia Environmental Permits Directory* is currently being written with detailed descriptions of each permit, the applicable fees, and any appeals processes available to the potential licensee.

Environmental permitting in the Commonwealth was also addressed by the Director of the Department of Waste Management and the Director of Community, Business and Trade Services for the Department of Economic Development. These representatives discussed "Project Streamline," an effort by the state's environmental regulatory agencies to speed up and simplify the permitting process, and the Interagency Permit Assistance Group. The mission of this group is "to assist in making Virginia's environmental permitting process as easy, simple and straightforward as possible for the business community, consistent with the enforcement of all appropriate protection laws and regulations." The group is comprised of representatives from four state agencies: the Department of Air Pollution Control, the Department of Waste Management, the State Water Control Board, and the Department of Economic Development.

The Acting Director of the Division of State Parks addressed the Commission concerning state parks in the Blue Ridge region. Parks should be viewed as partners in economic development and remain open in the fall and winter, the prime tourist season for the Blue Ridge Mountains. Parks need funding so they can provide much needed economic growth for the surrounding localities. Funds will be required to winterize the facilities and pay the park personnel for the fall and winter months, so the parks can realize their full potential. The Commission agreed that winterization of Douthat State Park, located in the region, should be a top priority.

The Commission did agree that the fall foliage is a great asset of the region that needs to be protected. The environmental problems that are eroding the natural vistas and foliage of the region must be addressed soon so that the Blue Ridge region can continue to promote and profit from its natural beauty. Due to its concerns, the Commission studied the gypsy moth and its affects on the Blue Ridge region. An entomologist warned the Commission that by the year 2005, the moth will be located throughout the entire Commonwealth and that the moth especially thrives along the Blue Ridge Parkway, due to its higher elevation. (see Table 6) The primary impact of the moth is defoliation; thus, several steps must be taken to enhance the Commonwealth's and localities' ability to deal with the gypsy moth problem. These include establishment of county-based gypsy moth management packages; realization that the problem will not disappear; coordination of programs on a state-wide basis; implementation of informational technology tools; implementation of technological transfer programs; and coordination of research, extension and implementation programs.

Table 6
The Gypsy Moth in Virginia



SOURCE: *Dr. F. William Ravlin, Associate Professor
 Department of Entomology
 VPI & SU
 Blacksburg, Virginia*

The specific concerns of the Blue Ridge region were also addressed by educators practicing in the area. They reiterated the importance of the efforts of the Blue Ridge Region, Inc., an organization that promotes the region, and explained that although the region is not extremely growth oriented, it is not economically depressed, with a growth rate of 4.5 percent.

At the conclusion of many hours of testimony and discussion, the Commission set about to accept its challenge of deciding what innovative economic development models should be developed or borrowed from other states or localities, and what assistance is needed by those already involved in economic development in the Blue Ridge region.

C. COMMISSION AND TASK FORCE DELIBERATIONS.

East of the six task forces met at least four times to examine in detail the issues assigned to it and to formulate a plan for addressing those issues. The task forces then presented their recommendations to the full Commission for adoption and potential implementation. From these recommendations the Commission developed its legislative package for the 1992 Session.

1. Partnerships Between State and Local Governments, Educational Institutions and the Private Sector

The Commission focused on the promotion of economic growth through the formation of partnerships between various governmental and private sector entities. The task force examining the concept of partnerships sought to develop a plan to link businesses, industries, educational institutions and local governments to exchange information and to support the research and development needs of businesses, industries and local governments. The Commission identified the need for such an exchange program and in its deliberations discussed and subsequently endorsed the creation of an electronic network for the region.

Businesses, industries, and local governments often face problems that require research-based information to effectively solve their problems. In addition to their research needs, they often seek to organize staff development and training functions. The colleges and universities of the Blue Ridge region can support many of the research, training and staff development needs of businesses, industries, and local governments in the region. An electronic communication network would significantly improve the access that the businesses, industries, and local governments have to the colleges and universities in the region. Such a network would also make the region more attractive to prospective new businesses and industries. The Commission endorsed the recommendation of the task force that an Electronic Research and Development Support Network be established on a two-year demonstration basis, with Virginia Tech providing the host computer to serve the network. Tech could also provide staff support and a toll-free

access number to support the network, as well as training sessions for network users. Finally, a network users advisory committee could be formed to provide advice on the functions and use of the network.

Despite its support of the network, the Commission decided not to introduce legislation concerning the network in 1992, due to budget constraints and a similar recommendation being developed by the Joint Subcommittee to Study the Measures Necessary to Assure Virginia's Economic Recovery. However, the network will be a topic of discussion for the Commission in 1992.

The partnerships task force also spent a significant amount of time reviewing partnership projects established in Virginia and other states. For example, programs at both North Carolina State University and Georgia Tech were examined, and the task force expressed interest in the fact that the programs are staffed by professionals and partially funded with public money. The group also strove to answer four fundamental questions:

- How can we more effectively link college and university resources and expertise to the needs of regional industries, businesses or local governments?
- How can we create truly regional approaches (networks) for improving the productivity and competitiveness of our industries, businesses and local governments?
- Are there any impediments (regulations, policies or resource needs) that limit or restrict our ability to develop regional efforts to create the partnerships necessary to improve our economic base?
- What kinds of partnerships are necessary or possible for involving businesses, industries, local governments, colleges and universities in the improvement of the workforce in the region?

In 1992, the task force, in cooperation with the Commission, will continue to offer suggested answers to these important economic development questions.

2. Marketing Strategies to Promote Businesses and Industry

The Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission also studied the promotion of economic growth by assessing ways to attract new enterprises, expand existing businesses and retain existing industry and jobs. The Commission agreed that a top priority was the creation of a "deal-closing fund" to attract businesses and industries to the Blue Ridge region. The fund will help to ensure that the Commonwealth, and the Blue Ridge region in particular, will not lose a business prospect unnecessarily.

The marketing strategies task force examined state revenues, taxes and expenditures among the 50 states, as well as state and local revenues, taxes and expenditures. Generally, there are two ways to compare this data. The first measure is on a per capita basis and the second is adjusted by personal income, which attempts to compensate for each state's different level of income and wealth and, therefore, the ability to pay for governmental services. The task force found that on a straight per capita basis, Virginia is near the average in terms of both state and local revenues, taxes and expenditures. However, because Virginia has a relatively high personal income, if one adjusts for income, which is the ability to pay taxes, Virginia ranks in the mid-forties in all these areas. That is, there are only about five states in the entire country which have a lower state and local tax or expenditure level when adjusted by personal income. The task force believes this is extremely important to Virginia in its marketing efforts and is a vital piece of information for the Blue Ridge marketing strategy.

The work group also reviewed the tax and financial incentives which are offered by competing states as well as the general question of whether state business incentives are attractive in encouraging economic growth. The task force concluded that Virginia is a stable and relatively low tax and expenditure state and this needs to be marketed. In terms of how effective Virginia's business incentives are, the literature indicates that there are a host of reasons why different types of prospects locate in one state versus another, and they are different based on the type of company which is considering the location decision. Clearly, however, if most states do offer incentives, then Virginia must offer those incentives to keep up.

The task force recommended to the full Commission that the region's six different marketing groups join in an umbrella advisory council so that each knows what the others are doing. The goal is not to reduce their autonomy but simply to allow the groups to work together in a more coordinated manner. This advisory council would also be charged with developing a model export program for the region. The task force also discussed the shortcomings and strengths of the region and examined the role of the Virginia community college system in providing training for new enterprises as well as outreach programs in the manufacturing sector.

3. Expansion and Diversification of Existing Industry

The Commission discussed and examined present economic development policies and programs, the long-term needs of the Blue Ridge area, and actions to encourage existing businesses to expand and diversify. The present condition of an outlook for agricultural industries located in the region was also assessed during the Commission's deliberations.

The task force on expansion and diversification of existing industry examined recent, effective efforts in the Commonwealth and sister states to promote economic growth, such as the overhaul of the permitting process in North Carolina and the creation of tax incentives in other states; developed specific recommendations for consideration by the

Commission regarding policies and programs that could assist existing industry to expand; and developed specific recommendations concerning policies and programs that would help to diversify the existing industrial base. The role of the state agencies involved in the economic development process, including the environmental regulatory agencies, their areas of responsibility, and the various programs offered to facilitate economic development were examined. DED provided information on the industrial service and other programs offered by the Department to existing businesses and in their recruitment of new industry.

Generally, the Commission agreed that incentives offered to attract and encourage expansion of existing business fall into three categories: financing, infrastructure, and training programs. Virginia also offers a limited number of tax credits and exemptions. In addition to state incentives, localities may offer additional incentives. In anticipation that the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission would be continued for an additional year, the task force limited its focus to those issues which could be reasonably accomplished in the 1992 Session of the General Assembly. As a result, discussions of the task force were focused in two areas: (i) expansion of existing industry and (ii) streamlining the environmental permitting process.

On the first issue, it was the consensus of the task force that the availability of funds to facilitate expansion was paramount. As a result, the creation of a low interest, revolving loan fund for the Blue Ridge region was recognized as a vital tool in encouraging existing industries to expand. Further, sources of additional funds (i.e., state and federal grants for local environmental improvement projects) need to be identified and made available to business in the Blue Ridge. The task force also determined that the improvement of roadways and railways in the Blue Ridge would make expansion of existing industries more attractive since products and supplies could be transported more efficiently.

On the environmental permitting front, a major area of difficulty for the expansion of industry is obtaining the requisite environmental permits. The length of time required to process permit applications contributes to the loss of Virginia business to other states and Canada. Protection of the environment and a reasonable regulatory framework must both be the goal of government. Therefore, the Commission and the task force agreed to further review the progress of the permitting process in 1992.

4. Strategies to Promote Tourism and Market Local Attractions

The Commission also examined the existing tourism industry in the Blue Ridge region, focusing on ways to improve and expand this industry, thereby translating the area's tourist attractions into income producers for the area. Tourism, in the eyes of the Commission, is and can be a powerful economic development tool.

Tourism is the third largest retail/service industry in the nation, and according to present forecasts, tourism may be the largest industry in the United States, as well as the world, by the year 2000. Tourism is expected to be the second largest such industry in Virginia by then. This industry is noted for diversity and variety in both product (the sites and attractions promoted) and customer (a heterogenous group).¹⁰ The U.S. Travel Data Center in the Department of Commerce has estimated that an additional 100 visitors per day in an average community creates 48 new jobs and may add \$145,000 per year to state and local revenues.¹¹

The Blue Ridge region, encompassing 20 counties and 11 cities, is a diverse geographic area in western Virginia. This region has 13.5 percent of the state population and 24.0 percent of the state land mass. Known for its scenic beauty, many small attractions, historic sites, and special events, the Blue Ridge region draws visitors for day trips and overnight stays en route to major tourist destination points such as Williamsburg, Virginia; Asheville, North Carolina; and Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The competition is often "the state down the road," not the town next door.¹²

The counties in the Blue Ridge region contain two cities with populations of 50,000 or more and 1,168,041 acres of federal and state land and public parks, of which wooded timberland accounts for 29 percent. A broad variety of community and cultural activities are available; however, the variety is countered by the small scale, difficult accessibility, and, at times, minimal support services in the area.

Based on information from the Virginia Division of Tourism, tourism dollar expenditures increased over 116 percent between 1980 and 1988. The regional percentage of state tourism decreased from approximately 13 percent to 12 percent in the same time period. The cities within the Blue Ridge region increased total travel dollar expenditures by over 183 percent and local tax receipts by over 256 percent between 1980 and 1988. These increases exceed greatly the rise for counties--92 percent and almost 109 percent respectively. On average, although both cities and counties increased tourism dollar and revenue receipts, together they did not match the growth of the State which reached a 141 percent dollar expenditure growth and 177 percent revenue growth within the tourism industry between 1980 and 1988. Unfortunately, the regional percent of state tourism market declined approximately one percent between 1980 and 1988.¹³

The attention of the Commission was attracted to these economic indicators as part of the analysis of the economic standing of the Blue Ridge region. Further data is available from Table 7: "Economic Impact of Travel on Virginia Localities."

¹⁰*Tourism 2000: Virginia's Vision for the Future: A Strategic Plan for Virginia's Travel Industry in the 1990s*, Tourism 2000 Committee, 1990, p. 4.

¹¹*The Blue Ridge Region of Virginia Study Commission: Tourism Issues*, Virginia Tech Community Resource Development, (1991), p. 5.

¹²*Id.* at 1.

¹³*Id.*

Table 7

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TRAVEL ON VIRGINIA LOCALITIES

LOCALITY	1980 TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENDITURES (\$000)	1988 TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENDITURES (\$000)	1980 LOCAL TAX RECEIPTS (\$000)	1988 LOCAL TAX RECEIPTS (\$000)
CITIES				
Bedford	710	1,242	8	14
Buena Vista	518	455	6	3
Clifton Forge	180	367	2	2
Covington	1,665	2,170	20	20
Lexington	1,704	2,479	34	37
Lynchburg	19,998	67,629	512	1,721
Radford	235	2,924	3	20
Roanoke	46,802	120,384	613	2,357
Salem	6,253	11,590	75	139
Staunton	1,972	16,664	24	185
Waynesboro	3,615	11,238	43	275
CITY TOTAL	83,652	237,142	1,340	4,773
PERCENT CHANGE		183.49%		256.19%
COUNTIES				
Alleghany	6,030	10,610	63	121
Amherst	4,340	5,425	50	48
Appomattox	727	2,666	8	17
Augusta	29,077	39,201	322	469
Bath	75,554	105,262	889	1,130
Bedford	7,226	8,028	41	71
Bland	1,024	464	4	6
Botetourt	4,444	14,312	48	178
Campbell	2,040	5,579	21	40
Craig	164	2,560	1	12
Floyd	1,070	2,769	11	19
Franklin	7,218	8,042	47	46
Giles	3,120	14,425	35	176
Highland	858	3,471	7	14
Montgomery	24,874	45,095	297	566
Nelson	5,394	53,920	53	683
Pulaski	6,640	8,894	61	94
Roanoke	26,573	43,956	312	632
Rockbridge	11,863	32,741	138	482
Wythe	11,017	33,808	130	498
COUNTY TOTAL	229,253	441,228	2,538	5,302
PERCENT CHANGE		92.46%		108.90%
REGIONAL TOTAL	312,905	678,370	3,878	10,075
PERCENT CHANGE		116.80%		159.80%
AVERAGE	10,094	21,883	125	325
STANDARD DEVIATION	15,969	29,683	205	528
MINIMUM	164	367	1	2
MAXIMUM	75,554	120,384	889	2,357
RANGE	75,390	120,017	888	2,355
STATE TOTAL	2,381,790	5,748,189	40,196	111,383
PERCENT CHANGE		141.34%		177.10%
AVERAGE	10,094	21,883	125	325
STANDARD DEVIATION	15,969	29,683	205	528
MINIMUM	164	367	1	2
MAXIMUM	75,554	120,384	889	2,357
RANGE	75,390	120,017	888	2,355
REGIONAL % OF STATE	13.14%	11.80%	9.65%	9.05%
OUTBOUND TRAVEL OF VIRGINIA RESIDENTS	627,350	1,355,267	5,491	12,559

SOURCE: Virginia Division of Tourism. *1980 and 1988 Travel in Virginia: An Economic Report*. Richmond, VA. 1982, 1990.

The tourism task force recommended that a study of Virginia's Welcome Centers be conducted to see how these Centers can effectively market the Commonwealth and the region. The work group agreed that aggressive marketing is essential to developing tourism as a major industry in the Blue Ridge region.

The State has numerous major attractions such as Colonial Williamsburg and Virginia Beach. The Blue Ridge region contains few if any destination points, but has many smaller attractions and events. The state marketing plan, appropriate for the large state attractions, may not be appropriate for the Blue Ridge. A more focused marketing plan must be conceived. Many critics argue that funding for tourism in Virginia has been focused on the eastern side of the state, the largest investment devoted to the largest attractions, the strongest promotion focused on the largest contiguous east coast markets (*i.e.*, New York, New Jersey, Washington, D.C.).

The Commission, with the assistance of the task force, concluded that state and regional goals can be compatible and some of the statewide tourism goals found in the report of the Tourism 2000 Committee may also be applicable to the Blue Ridge region:

- Encouragement of small and nonprofit attractions and suppliers;
- Cooperative planning and packaging to enhance shared customer base;
- Enhancement of historic sites;
- Standardized data collection; and
- Enhancing education in hospitality for local participants.

If tourism is perceived as a positive factor in the regional economic development of the Blue Ridge, economic development decision makers may encourage additional state funding or economic development to support clearly articulated marketing strategies for this specific region and its differentiated markets.

Some weaknesses in the state tourism experience include the present fragmentation of effort and leadership voice and the diversity of associations and organizations connected to the travel business. Funding competition, main international entry location on the east coast, and environmental impacts of additional growth also foster weaknesses in state tourism. Virginia contributes low levels of funding for tourism compared to some other states and appears inequitable in fund distribution to some intrastate regions.¹⁴

Development of rural areas will be a major component of the economic development plan of the Blue Ridge Commission. According to many experts, rural areas will rely on their competitive ability to seek service producing industries. These include health service delivery, computer processing, tourism, business and personal services, as well as high technology in this economic trend.

¹⁴*Id.* at 8.

The main attraction of the Blue Ridge is its scenic beauty. There are few major destination points in the region and the majority of attractions are visited, if visited at all, as a break in a journey, an excursion while visiting a friend, or an entertainment while attending to business related activities. Thus, the area cannot treat tourism in the same manner as the eastern side of Virginia, nor necessarily expect equivalent economic support. The decision to invest in tourism should be based on an economic analysis of the entire area, not just an individual town or attraction. Using a regional approach to planning may help decision makers avoid the weaknesses or pitfalls associated with a broader statewide or strictly local approach to planning and investment.

The Commission concluded that investors in western Virginia's tourism industry should be aware that surrounding states have already established programs which compete for visitors. There is need for a coordinated and realistic regional planning process involving coalitions of private and public enterprise.

One of the essential ingredients for expanding the tourist industry in the Blue Ridge region will be an educated workforce. All service sector employees must be aware of the special needs and requirements of the tourism industry. Community workforce training can be enhanced through community colleges or university continuing education classes. Education is considered to be the key national response to a global economy and industry mobility; a key state response to national need; a necessary local response for both special urban and rural location constraints. Community education for participation in tourism networks as well as community coexistence with the tourism industry are aspects of a regional economic growth plan.¹⁵

In addition, success in the Blue Ridge region is likely to depend heavily on the development of packages. These "packages" will focus on a variety of potential visitors. Using this format, a combination of small attraction and events may be the only way to create a large enough mass of visitors.

Transportation is an issue of significance to tourism. The location of the main interstate routes and upkeep of secondary roads influence the accessibility of all tourist attractions. However scenic the attraction, "getting there" needs to be perceived as relatively easy and time efficient. If we fail to provide adequate transportation, travelers will substitute equivalent small sites further along the destination route.

Thus, both the Commission and the task force identified the basic needs and problems associated with marketing tourism in the region, explored the development of a comprehensive marketing research program or strategy for the Blue Ridge region, examined possible funding sources for a regional marketing plan, and identified tourist attractions and events located or occurring in the region. Due to its importance in economic growth, tourism will remain a topic of great interest to the Commission in 1992.

¹⁵Id. at 9.

5. Initiatives to Enhance the Education and Training of the Workforce

The Commission examined the Blue Ridge region's adult workforce and its education system, keeping in mind that the future economic development of the region rests on the quality of the region's "human capital." A great deal of time was spent identifying problems, needs and concerns of the workforce and potential workforce, assessing the quality and competitiveness of the region's adult workforce, projecting what jobs and skills will be in demand in the region over the next 20 years and evaluating current educational and training programs as they relate to the area's long-term economic growth.

The task force on education and training of the workforce surveyed a multitude of literature on education, the future workforce needs, and education reform initiatives. Members elected to work in sub-groups and concentrate on four areas:

- K-12 education;
- Post-Secondary efforts;
- Adult retraining; and
- Coordination of these three efforts.

Adults twenty-five and older are the workforce of the Blue Ridge region. In truth most of the workforce 2000 is already in place, except for those joining the ranks of 18 to 25 year olds in the 1990s. According to the most recent U.S. Census data, the average education level in the region is as follows: 50-75 percent of residents have a high school diploma or less; 10-20 percent have a community college degree or apprenticeship/technical school training; and 10-15 percent have completed four or more years of college.

The most recent unemployment figures for the region showed rates from a high of 12 percent to a low of 5.1 percent. Of course, these figures do not include those thousands of workers who have exhausted their unemployment benefits and are no longer counted. Clearly, there needs to be swift and definitive action to raise the basic educational level of the adults in the region to create a more active and attractive workforce. This effort will not only provide a pool for newly created or ongoing entrepreneurships, small business, and work-at-home opportunities, but it will serve to draw expanding business and industry to the region.

To improve the education level of the adults, the task force concluded that a regional education council is needed to focus on three goals: (i) raising the literacy level and general education development (GED) of area adults by a 10 percent increase in each year between now and the year 2000; (ii) raising the employability level of the area's unemployed by 10 percent in each year between now and the year 2000; and (iii) raising the education level through skill related and degree-oriented programs for all working adults by 10 percent in each year between now and the year 2000, with an emphasis on their preparation to launch new employment ventures in the region.

To meet these goals, the council would sponsor a series of local seminars throughout the region to plan how to upgrade the adult workforce; work with local authorities to set up early action plans to meet the three goals; and evaluate the results on a yearly basis and adjust local action plans accordingly to meet the action goals for the year 2000 of at least a 50% upgrade of the entire adult workforce in the Blue Ridge region.

Innovative solutions are needed to bridge the gap between growing demands on local school systems and their funding limitations, according to the Commission. Creative programs, such as school-business partnerships that enhance the competitive strength of the workforce, are proving to be seminal innovations for economic and educational development. To facilitate effective school-business partnerships in school districts and communities, the council would function in three ways:

- Involve a significant segment of public and private leaders in educational improvement activities;
- Facilitate cooperative, coordinated planning, problem-solving, and action by state agencies, higher education institutions, school districts and businesses in a consortium effort; and
- Provide public information and advocacy.

Examples of specific objectives with which the council could assist include: (i) stimulating business support for creation of local school-business partnerships; (ii) providing organizational and training aids for local school-business partnerships; (iii) sponsoring conferences on innovative programs such as school-business partnerships; (iv) offering an innovation evaluation service; (v) conducting problem solving focus groups and forums; (vi) encouraging applicable research; and (vii) find alternative funding sources.

The actions of the council would be implemented through:

- Regional community colleges and four-year institutions;
- Public and private schools;
- Community-based volunteer groups and agencies; and
- Regional businesses and industries.

Because funding by the State is based in large part upon average daily student membership, many school systems in the Blue Ridge region are absorbing a major reduction in state funding due to a declining population. The loss of funds places an even greater burden upon the localities in this region. Thus, the task force felt that the enrollment loss funding mechanism should be reinstated to help school systems in those counties/cities that are experiencing a loss in general population. Reinstatement of the mechanism would enable the locality to maintain programs of high quality as well as invest in future change and new programs. Although the Commission endorsed this concept, due to budget constraints, the reinstatement of the loss funding mechanism was not included as one of the Commission's recommendations for 1992.

In order for the Blue Ridge region to provide the detailed technical training needed to attract business and prepare employees to compete in the complex job market, the Commission agreed to thoroughly study the specific technical training needs and types of delivery systems most appropriate. The region needs adaptable programs with varied, concentrated training driven by industry and business. Consideration will be given to programs that foster apprenticeships, mentoring, and technical preparation. Furthermore, programs that concentrate on applied technology education and clinical approaches to teaching students will be considered. A regional technical training plan will create a blueprint for technical training in the region by determining technical training needs from surveys of businesses and industries in the region; ways to accomplish the needs through new, unique teaching methods; and ways to acquire funding to provide the training programs needed. The focus for this plan will concentrate on technical training for 16-20 year olds and those interested in selected Bachelor of Science programs, further training, retraining, or skills training.

Business and industry would be the crucial element to generate the types of programs needed in the region, and the possibility of industrial/business funding could be explored. Neighboring states have already established comprehensive regional technology application and instruction centers. Such centers can be found in Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. If the Commonwealth and the Blue Ridge region in particular are to keep pace with their neighbors, the creation of a technology center is essential.

Since business-education partnerships are the best way to involve each partner in the day-to-day problems of their respective organization, this appears to be the best method in beginning the necessary improvement in educating and training the workforce. Many obstacles stand in the way of developing successful business partnership programs. Many of these, unfortunately, are related to funding. Thus, start-up funds for enhancing School-Business Partnership Programs should be made available as an incentive. This funding could be modeled after such ideas as special education parent resource centers where school divisions which choose to participate and accept training receive funding to begin the operation of such a program.

The majority of school divisions in the Blue Ridge region are not large metropolitan systems, but are small or moderate in size and do not have the financial resources to establish a program which is not mandated or funded by the Standards of Quality. Research proves that once partnerships are established, many funding sources become available to continue their operation and in most cases the programs continue to grow. Practical examples exist in many small localities across the nation. *The Governor's Advisory Committee--Workforce Virginia 2000* clearly shows examples of successful partnerships. These range from Fairfax County to Smyth County. The existing partnerships could also gain assistance by being selected as trainers; therefore, becoming "rewarded" partners. To make this initiative realistic, these "mini-grants" could be available over a period of years with a certain number allocated to school divisions by region.

6. Regional Data Collection and Analysis, Information Services and Communication Needs

The task force on regional data collection and analysis was charged with examining the development of regional databases and information systems that will assist data users both public and private to acquire, in a timely manner, the data and information necessary to evaluate and support development of the region. Elements of the study included:

- Identification and review of existing databases and information sources that serve the region;
- Assessment of resources of colleges, universities, planning district offices and other development organizations and how these resources can be integrated effectively into a regional communications and data center network;
- Identification of legal, legislative, and bureaucratic impediments to the timely access to data and information important to the economic development process within the region;
- Identification of the kinds of assistance data users such as local and regional agencies and organizations might need in relation to databases and information systems;
- Identification of alternative methods of funding various components of the databases and information systems; and
- Development of specific recommendations for consideration by the Commission that would help to establish databases, information systems and communication regions or localities within the region.

Members of the task force met briefly in conjunction with the Commission meetings, attended meetings of the other task forces, and met formally three times at the Fifth Planning District Commission offices in Roanoke. In addition to determining the data needs by visiting members of the other task forces, members reviewed literature and heard testimony from the Virginia Employment Commission and the State Data Center.

From investigation of resources and information from speakers, members concluded that the region needs a uniform electronic database that will be available to users and maintained on a timely basis. The Blue Ridge Region Electronic Communication and Information Network (BRRECIN) should be developed to facilitate the transfer of information, between development agencies, that is necessary to promote and support development of the region.

In order for development agencies in the Blue Ridge region to more effectively obtain and transfer information to help analyze, promote, evaluate, and support development in the region, an electronic communication and information network should be developed to

facilitate the flow of information in a timely manner. The network would feature an electronic mail system (e-mail) that would allow any network users to communicate directly with other users or "groups" of users. This Network could be established on a two year demonstration basis, and provide direct computer linkages between and among planning district commissions, economic development offices, chambers of commerce, colleges and universities, and businesses and industries in the region.

Virginia Tech could be requested to develop the system and provide the host computer with toll-free access for two years, as well as provide staff support to collect and enter information for direct access by all members of the network. Tech staff could also be requested to provide training and documentation for network users, and a network users advisory committee could be utilized to make recommendations concerning the types of information that would be available on the network. The advisory committee should consist of representatives from the agencies and organizations identified in the list of network users. During the coming year, the Commission, with the assistance of the task force, will compile additional information on databases and types of information necessary to the successful economic development of the Blue Ridge region.

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

House Joint Resolution No. 451 directed the creation of the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission to propose recommendations to promote and stimulate economic development in twenty counties and eleven cities defined as the Blue Ridge region. In the past year, the Commission has carried out its charge by seeking the advice and expertise of economic development experts, state and local governmental officials, educators, representatives of business and industry, and the citizenry of the Commonwealth. The Commission has learned that the region is committed to the enhancement of economic, educational, cultural and social opportunities and growth in the region and that, while the picture is not always rosey, there is great hope and potential for the western part of the Commonwealth. The commitment of state and local officials, business and industry, and the citizens of the region to promoting economic growth in the Blue Ridge region will spark the necessary changes to move the region into the 21st century. Having considered a plethora of suggestions and comments, the Commission focused on the strengths and weaknesses of the region as a whole to develop its specific recommendations.

All of the issues and concerns of the people of the region could not be adequately addressed by the Commission in its first year of existence; therefore, the 1992 General Assembly has agreed to extend the life of the Commission for another year. The Commission endorses all the recommendations of its six task forces and makes the following recommendations for specific action in 1992:

Recommendation 1: That the Commission to Propose Recommendations to Promote and Stimulate Economic Development in the Blue Ridge Region of the Commonwealth, authorized by House Joint Resolution No. 451, be continued for one additional year to explore specific strategies to improve and enhance the economic development of the Blue Ridge region and that one planning district commission director be added to the Commission's current membership.

Recommendation 2: That the Blue Ridge Regional Education and Training Council be created and funded to upgrade the basic educational levels of the adults in the region, to create a more active and attractive workforce and to create innovative solutions to meet the growing demands on local school systems. The Council should explore the possibility of providing start-up funds for enhancing School-Business Partnership Programs.

Recommendation 3: That a comprehensive, regional technical training plan be developed for the Blue Ridge region, creating a blueprint for technical training in the area by determining (i) the technical training needs of businesses and industries in the region, (ii) ways to accomplish the needs through new, unique teaching methods, and (iii) ways to acquire funding to provide the necessary training programs.

Recommendation 4: That state parks be used as vehicles for economic development and that the current policy that parks are maintained for local recreational use be altered. As a pilot project, Douthat State Park should be open and staffed during the fall season, since many people travel to the Blue Ridge region in October and November to view the fall foliage. This project could be studied for potential expansion to other state parks. Also, funds should be provided for improvement of the park's facilities and for advertising.

Recommendation 5: That the General Assembly be requested to direct the Center for Hospitality Research and Service at Virginia Tech to conduct a study of the Virginia Welcome Centers.

Recommendation 6: That a Blue Ridge Economic Development Advisory Council be created. The eleven-member council would divide the region into six subregions, and each subregion would have one representative on the council. The council's membership would also include one representative each from the following industries: railroads, utilities and financial institutions. The other two council members would be a representative from Virginia Tech and the Chairman of the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission.

Recommendation 7: That a pilot export program for the Blue Ridge Region be developed by the proposed Blue Ridge Economic Development Advisory Council.

Recommendation 8: That \$250,000 be provided annually to advertise the tangible assets of the Blue Ridge region and to fund a grant program for cooperative and regional tourism development and advertising. Fifty percent of the funding would be provided by the localities, with the state providing matching funds.

Recommendation 9: That a "deal closing" fund be established and funded to be used, at the discretion of the Governor, to attract economic development prospects and to secure the expansion of existing industry in the Blue Ridge and the Commonwealth. The fund would be for transportation improvements, expansion or construction of water and sewer facilities or other capital projects.

Recommendation 10: That deadlines be imposed for agency review of environmental permit applications in the areas of water, air, and solid waste management.

Recommendation 11: That the boards in the areas of water, air, and solid waste be prohibited from promulgating regulations which are more stringent than applicable federal requirements and be required to each develop and make available to permit applicants a uniform application form, regardless of the type of permit for which application is made.

Recommendation 12: That a Blue Ridge Economic Development Revolving Fund be created to provide low-interest rate loans to local governments in the Blue Ridge region for the purpose of supporting existing projects and assisting localities to retain existing jobs and create new jobs through the expansion, diversification, or modernization of existing industry, including the tourism industry, for projects initiated within thirty miles of an existing site.

Recommendation 13: That the Secretary of Natural Resources be requested to review the current status of, and the need for improvement in, environmental improvement projects.

Recommendation 14: That Congress be memorialized to release to Virginia those federal trust funds which are intended to support construction and improvements related to transportation infrastructure, especially for improvement of the Interstates 81 and 64 intersection.

Recommendation 15: That the Commonwealth Rail Transportation Fund be established by setting aside one percent of highway user revenues for such purpose and by reducing the Transportation Trust Fund from 85 to 84 percent of highway user revenues. The Fund would be used to preserve "critical" rail lines for the Commonwealth which are abandoned by private railroad companies.

Recommendation 16: That the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech be requested to expand its research initiatives to identify innovative applications of forestry, agricultural and biotechnological resources endemic to the Blue Ridge region.

Recommendation 17: That the General Assembly be requested to continue funding to Virginia Tech's Virginia Cooperative Extension Service to ensure continued programming.

Recommendation 18: That the Virginia Department of Transportation be requested to take prompt action on the construction and improvement of the Route 29 Corridor as soon as federal trust funds are released.

Recommendation 19: That the Virginia Department of Transportation be requested to take prompt action on the construction and improvement of certain feeder roads in the Blue Ridge region, including Routes 220, 501, 60 and 460.

The Commission extends its appreciation and gratitude to the task force members, the representatives of local and state governments and business and industry, and all others who contributed to a successful study year. The Commission also looks forward to continuing its work, with the assistance of its task forces, in 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honorable Joan H. Munford, *Chairman*
The Honorable Frank W. Nolen, *Vice Chairman*
The Honorable C. Richard Cranwell
The Honorable Willard R. Finney
The Honorable Thomas M. Jackson, Jr.
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
The Honorable Lacey E. Putney
The Honorable W. Onico Barker
The Honorable Daniel W. Bird, Jr.
The Honorable Elliot S. Schewel
The Honorable J. Granger Macfarlane
Charles Ray Chandler
Vaden L. "Lee" Cobb
Dr. Charles L. Downs
J. Everette Fauber III
James W. Harkness
Junius A. Haskins, Jr.
Melvin L. "Mel" Mayfield
Steven A. McGraw
Dr. Barbara J. Pendergrass
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Charles R. Saul
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VII. Appendices

- A. House Joint Resolution No. 451.
- B. House Joint Resolution No. 107.
- C. Recommended Legislation.
- D. Letter of Support for Extension Services.
- E. Membership of Task Forces.

Appendix A

House Joint Resolution No. 451

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA--1991 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 451

Establishing a commission to propose recommendations to promote and stimulate economic development in the Blue Ridge region of Virginia.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 22, 1991

Agreed to by the Senate, February 21, 1991

WHEREAS, while the Commonwealth's overall 1988 per capita income ranked highest among southeastern states and higher than the national average, this prosperity has not been evenly distributed throughout Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the increasing economic disparity between urban and rural areas has prompted the expansion of strategies to meet the unique development needs of southern states in particular; and

WHEREAS, many economic development experts have cited the need for "growth-from-within" strategies focusing on the cultivation of local entrepreneurship and existing untapped resources to address effectively the economic, educational, and geographic challenges facing many regions in the South; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth, encompassing the Counties of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Highland, Montgomery, Nelson, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, and Wythe, is committed to the enhancement of economic, educational, cultural, and social opportunities and growth in the region; and

WHEREAS, although, unlike other regions of the Commonwealth, the Blue Ridge area is neither economically depressed nor disadvantaged, the region is not assured a promising economic future without some assistance; and

WHEREAS, although the Blue Ridge region's unique combination of urban and rural areas and unsurpassed natural beauty provide exceptional opportunities for economic expansion, the region is lacking several resources and services necessary to ensure self-sufficiency and growth; and

WHEREAS, although the economic development of southern states and certain regions of the Commonwealth have been the focus of various national, regional, and state studies, none of these valuable studies has directly addressed the exceptional challenges facing the Blue Ridge region of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, while the Commonwealth's Blue Ridge region has benefited greatly from the efforts of state and local governments as well as private organizations, reduced financial support for planning districts and federal development programs necessitates the exploration of innovative approaches to ensure the continued growth and economic well-being of the region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That a study commission be hereby established to propose recommendations to promote and stimulate economic development in the Blue Ridge region of Virginia. Among other issues, the commission shall consider (i) individual and regional efforts which might be conducted in partnership with state government, educational institutions, and the private sector; (ii) expansion and diversification of existing industry; (iii) regional data collection and analysis, information services, and communications needs; (iv) marketing strategies to promote tourism, business, and industry; and (v) initiatives to enhance the education and training of the workforce.

The commission shall be composed of 23 members as follows: six members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker; five members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections; and twelve citizens from the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth to include two representatives each from local governments, the business community, and industry, two local economic development officials, one representative each from the banking community, a major utility, a four-year institution of higher education, and one community college president, to be appointed by the Governor.

The legislative members of the commission shall be compensated as specified in § 14.1-18 of the Code of Virginia, and all members of the commission shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of the work of the commission.

The commission may accept and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources which will enable it to carry out its objectives.

All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the commission and, upon request, assist the commission in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

The commission shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1992 Session of the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

The indirect costs of this study are estimated to be \$13,675; the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$20,700.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.

Appendix B

House Joint Resolution No. 107

1992 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 107

Offered January 20, 1992

Continuing the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission.

Patrons—Munford, Cranwell, Deeds and Finney; Senators: Nolen, Schewel and Trumbo

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution No. 451, adopted by the 1991 Session of the General Assembly, established a commission to propose recommendations to improve and enhance economic development in the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth (the "Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission" or "Blue Ridge Commission"); and

WHEREAS, the Commission was charged to consider a wide range of issues including strategies to attract new businesses to the region and to expand and diversify existing industry; ways to promote partnerships between state and local governments, educational institutions and the private sector; and initiatives to increase the educational attainment and technical skill of the workforce; and

WHEREAS, in exploring the challenges facing the Blue Ridge region, the Commission met four times to review regional data regarding economic growth, education, and industry and to seek the input and expertise of economic development specialists, state agencies, and representatives of higher education and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was greatly assisted by the establishment of six task forces comprised of Commission members and ad hoc appointees from public and private entities in the Blue Ridge region, which provided more detailed examinations of partnerships between various public and private entities; marketing strategies to promote business and industry; expansion and diversification of existing industry; strategies to promote tourism; initiatives to enhance the education and training of the workforce; and regional data collection and analysis respectively; and

WHEREAS, traditional economic development strategies as well as newer theories have received Commission scrutiny; and

WHEREAS, testimony before the Commission and the task forces has confirmed a number of disturbing trends in the economic development of the Blue Ridge region, including educational disparity, declining populations, low median incomes, inadequate infrastructure, and poor representation in anticipated "growth" industries; and

WHEREAS, while a number of current programs have provided some assistance to the region, the Blue Ridge region of Virginia continues to face serious challenges as it struggles to accelerate its economic development and to retain those values and to utilize those resources that make it a unique and important part of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, although the Commission has developed specific recommendations addressing such issues as business incentives and the regulatory permit-approvals process, it is the consensus of the Commission that further review of the expansion of industries using the region's abundant natural resources, the educational needs of Blue Ridge citizens and employers, regional marketing efforts, infrastructure needs, and other issues is necessary to develop additional specific recommendations to enhance the economic growth of the region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission be continued. The membership of the Commission shall continue as established by House Joint Resolution No. 451 of the 1991 Session of the General Assembly, except one executive director of a planning district commission, to be appointed by the Governor, shall be added to the membership of the Commission. Vacancies shall be filled by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, as appropriate. The Commission shall continue to review and evaluate methods of enhancing the economic growth of the region and shall consider financing alternatives, partnerships between government, higher

education, and the private sector, and other related issues as it deems appropriate.

The legislative members of the Commission shall be compensated as specified in § 14.1-18 of the Code of Virginia, and all members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of the work of the Commission.

The Commission may accept and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources which will enable it to meet its objectives.

The Commission shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1993 Session of the General Assembly in accordance with the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

The indirect costs of this study are estimated to be \$13,675; the direct costs of this study shall not exceed \$20,700.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period for the conduct of the study.

Appendix C

Recommended Legislation

1992 SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 998

Offered January 21, 1992

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.1-1.7 and 9-6.25:2 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 9 a chapter numbered 22.6, consisting of sections numbered 9-145.21 through 9-145.25, establishing the Blue Ridge Regional Education and Training Council.

Patrons—Finney, Deeds, Giesen, Jackson, Putney, Thomas, Wilkins and Woodrum; Senators: Nolen and Schewel

Referred to the Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.1-1.7 and 9-6.25:2 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 9 a chapter numbered 22.6, consisting of sections numbered 9-145.21 through 9-145.25, as follows:

§ 2.1-1.7. State councils.—A. There shall be, in addition to such others as may be established by law, the following permanent collegial bodies either affiliated with more than one agency or independent of an agency within the executive branch:

Agricultural Council, Virginia

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Problems, Governor's Council on

Apprenticeship Council

Beach Erosion Council, Virginia

Blue Ridge Regional Education and Training Council

Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs, Virginia Council on

Child Day-Care Council

Citizens' Advisory Council on Furnishing and Interpreting the Executive Mansion

Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services and Training Council

Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Virginia

Equal Employment Opportunity Council, Virginia

Handicapped Children, Interagency Coordinating Council on Delivery of Related Services

to

Health Services Cost Review Council, Virginia

Housing for the Disabled, Interagency Coordinating Council on

Human Rights, Council on

Human Services Information and Referral Advisory Council

Indians, Council on

Job Training Coordinating Council, Governor's

Land Evaluation Advisory Council

Local Debt, State Council on

Long-Term Care Council

Military Advisory Council, Virginia

Needs of Handicapped Persons, Overall Advisory Council on the

Prevention, Virginia Council on Coordinating

Public Records Advisory Council, State

Rate-setting for Children's Facilities, Interdepartmental Council on

Revenue Estimates, Advisory Council on

State Health Benefits Advisory Council

Status of Women, Council on the

B. Notwithstanding the definition for "council" as provided in § 2.1-1.2, the following entities shall be referred to as councils:

Environment, Council on the

Council on Information Management

Higher Education, State Council of

World Trade Council, Virginia.

§ 9-6.25:2. Policy boards, commissions and councils.—There shall be, in addition to such others as may be designated in accordance with § 9-6.25, the following policy boards, commissions and councils:

Apprenticeship Council
Athletic Board
Auctioneers Board
Blue Ridge Regional Education and Training Council
Board for Accountancy
Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects
Board for Barbers
Board for Contractors
Board for Cosmetology
Board for Geology
Board for Hearing Aid Specialists
Board for Opticians
Board for Professional Soil Scientists
Board for Rights of Virginians With Disabilities
Board for Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators
Board for the Visually Handicapped
Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Board of Audiology and Speech Pathology
Board of Commerce
Board of Conservation and Recreation
Board of Correctional Education
Board of Dentistry
Board of Directors, State Education Assistance Authority
Board of Directors, Virginia Education Loan Authority
Board of Examiners in the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers
Board of Historic Resources
Board of Housing and Community Development
Board of Medical Assistance Services
Board of Medicine
Board of Nursing
Board of Nursing Home Administrators
Board of Optometry
Board of Pharmacy
Board of Professional Counselors
Board of Psychology
Board of Rehabilitative Services
Board of Social Services
Board of Social Work
Board of Surface Mining Review
Board of Veterinary Medicine
Board on Conservation and Development of Public Beaches
Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board
Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs, Virginia Council on
Child Day-Care Council
Commission on Local Government
Commonwealth Transportation Board
Council on the Environment
Council on Human Rights
Council on Information Management

Criminal Justice Services Board
 Farmers Market Board, Virginia
 Interdepartmental Council on Rate-setting for Children's Facilities
 Library Board, the Virginia State Library and Archives
 Marine Resources Commission
 Milk Commission
 Pesticide Control Board
 Real Estate Appraiser Board
 Real Estate Board
 Reciprocity Board, Department of Motor Vehicles
 Safety and Health Codes Board
 Seed Potato Board
 State Air Pollution Control Board
 State Board of Corrections
 State Board of Elections
 State Board of Health
 State Board of Youth and Family Services
 State Health Department, Sewage Handling and Disposal Appeal Review Board
 State Library Board
 State Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board
 State Water Control Board
 Substance Abuse Certification Board
 Treasury Board, The, Department of the Treasury
 Virginia Aviation Board
 Virginia Fire Services Board
 Virginia Health Planning Board
 Virginia Health Services Cost Review Council
 (Effective July 1, 1992) Virginia Manufactured Housing Board
 Virginia Oil and Gas Conservation Board
 Virginia Parole Board
 Virginia Public Telecommunications Board
 Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board
 Virginia Voluntary Formulary Board
 Virginia Waste Management Board
 Virginia Well Review Board
 Virginia World Trade Council
 Waste Management Facility Operators, Board for.

CHAPTER 22.6.

BLUE RIDGE REGIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COUNCIL.

§ 9-145.21. Council established; duties.—The Blue Ridge Regional Education and Training Council is hereby established and shall be referred to in this chapter as the Council. For the purposes of this chapter and the work of the Council, the "Blue Ridge" region shall include the Counties of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Highland, Montgomery, Nelson, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge and Wythe and the Cities of Bedford, Buena Vista, Clifton Forge, Covington, Lexington, Lynchburg, Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton and Waynesboro. The Council shall perform the following functions:

- 1. To provide general leadership in the region for education and business partnership programs and excellence in education;*
- 2. To encourage and expand business participation and involvement in public education and to foster partnerships between the public and private sectors to enhance public education in the Blue Ridge region;*
- 3. To collect, generate, and disseminate ideas and information regarding educational innovations and effective instructional practices pertinent to the Blue Ridge region;*

4. To coordinate with business and industry throughout the region to ascertain those skills, education, and training that businesses seek from entry level workers;

5. To serve as a resource and referral center for area school divisions by maintaining and disseminating information on existing educational programs and resources;

6. To develop, in coordination with the Department of Education and local school boards, specific goals for public education in the Blue Ridge region and, to annually evaluate the local school boards' progress toward these goals, and to adjust local plans if the need arises;

7. To promote the coordination of elementary, secondary, and higher education and adult education and worker training; and

8. To sponsor a series of seminars throughout the region to discuss, plan and receive comments on how to upgrade the region's adult workforce.

§ 9-145.22. Membership; terms; compensation; chairman and vice chairman; meetings.—A. The Council shall be composed of twenty-one members to be appointed by the Governor as follows: nine members representing business and industry; six members representing the education community, including one representative of a public four-year college or university, one representative of a four-year private college or university, one community college president or dean, one school superintendent, one public school teacher, and one school board member; four local elected officials; and two citizen members. Commission members shall be chosen from among residents of the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth.

B. Of the members to be appointed in 1992, seven shall be appointed for two-year terms, seven shall be appointed for three-year terms, and seven shall be appointed for four-year terms. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for terms of four years, except that appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No person shall be eligible to serve for or during more than two successive four-year terms, but after the expiration of a term of three years or less, or after the expiration of the remainder of a term to which appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional four-year terms may be served by such member if appointed thereto.

C. Members of the Council shall be reimbursed for their actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in the work of the Council.

D. The Commission shall elect a chairman and a vice chairman from among its members. The Commission shall meet at least four times a year and at such dates and times as they determine.

§ 9-145.23. Executive director; staff support; location.—The Council shall appoint an executive director, who shall be authorized to employ such staff as necessary to enable the Council to perform its duties as set forth in this chapter. The Council is authorized to determine the duties of such staff and to fix salaries and compensation from such funds as may be appropriated or received. Regional resource personnel from the Department of Education shall also provide staff support to the Council. The Council's offices shall be housed at Virginia Western Community College.

§ 9-145.24. Application for and acceptance of gifts and grants.—The Council is authorized to apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources to enable it to carry out its objectives.

§ 9-145.25. Cooperation of other agencies.—All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Council and, upon request, assist the Council in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

1992 SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1141

Offered January 21, 1992

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 5 of Title 2.1 a section numbered 2.1-51.6:1, relating to the Governor's Development Closing Fund.

Patrons—Munford, Deeds, Diamonstein, Jackson, Jennings and Woodrum; Senators: Nolen and Schewel

Referred to the Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 5 of Title 2.1 a section numbered 2.1-51.6:1 as follows:

§ 2.1-51.6:1. Governor's Development Closing Fund.—There is hereby created a Governor's Development Closing Fund to be used, in the sole discretion of the Governor, to attract economic development prospects and secure the expansion of existing industry in the Commonwealth. The Fund shall consist of any funds appropriated to it in the general appropriations act or revenue from any other source. The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller and any funds remaining in such Fund at the end of a biennium shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Interest earned on the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

The Fund shall be used by the Governor for transportation improvements, expansion or construction of water and sewer facilities or other capital facilities. The Department of Economic Development shall assist the Governor in the development of guidelines for the use of the Fund. The guidelines should include provisions for geographic diversity and a cap on the amount of money available for a certain project.

In each case where the Governor chooses to use any funds, the Governor shall report the following: the dollars provided from the Fund; the economic impact of the facility to the region; projected employment, payroll and related benefits to the region; and the estimated impact on state and local revenues. The Governor shall submit such report quarterly to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees.

1992 SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1142 Offered January 21, 1992

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 9 a chapter numbered 22.6, consisting of sections 9-145.21 through 9-145.25, establishing a Blue Ridge Economic Development Advisory Council.

Patrons—Jackson and Munford; Senators: Marye and Nolen

Referred to the Committee on General Laws

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 9 a chapter numbered 22.6, consisting of sections 9-145.21 through 9-145.25, as follows:

CHAPTER 22.6.

BLUE RIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.

§ 9-145.21. *Council established; membership; terms.—A. The Blue Ridge Economic Development Advisory Council is hereby established and shall be referred to in this chapter as the Council. The Council shall be composed of eleven members, all residents of the Blue Ridge region, to be appointed by the Governor as follows: one member from each of the six different marketing groups in the Blue Ridge region; the chairman of the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission or, if the Commission has expired, a member of the Virginia General Assembly; a representative of a major bank headquartered in the region involved in economic development efforts in the region; a representative of the major electric utility in the region; a representative of a major railroad headquartered in the region; and a representative knowledgeable about economic development from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.*

B. Of the members to be appointed in 1992, three shall be appointed for two-year terms, four shall be appointed for three-year terms and four shall be appointed for four-year terms. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for terms of four years, except that appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired terms. No person shall be eligible to serve for more than two successive four-year terms; however, after the expiration of a term of three years or less, or after the expiration of the remainder of a term to which appointed to fill a vacancy, two additional terms may be served by such member if appointed thereto.

C. Each member of the Council, before assuming the duties of this office, shall take and subscribe the oath prescribed in § 49-1.

D. Six members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, and the affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum present shall be necessary for any action taken by the Council. No vacancy in the membership of the Council shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform the duties of the Council. The Council shall elect a chairman from its membership.

§ 9-145.22. *Blue Ridge region defined.—For purposes of this chapter, "Blue Ridge" shall include the Counties of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Highland, Montgomery, Nelson, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge and Wythe and the Cities of Bedford, Buena Vista, Clifton Forge, Covington, Lexington, Lynchburg, Radford, Roanoke, Salem, Staunton and Waynesboro.*

§ 9-145.23. *Responsibilities; duties.—The Council shall:*

- 1. Encourage Blue Ridge counties, cities and towns to work cooperatively to promote the region's strengths and advantages;*
- 2. Allow the six different marketing groups to plan a coordinated effort to maximize the region's marketing efforts;*
- 3. Support and encourage each locality or group of localities to foster its own marketing programs, growth strategies and individual identities;*
- 4. Apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from public or private*

sources to enable it to carry out its objectives; and

5. Establish a pilot export program to encourage the region's industry to consider exporting as a way to increase sales.

§ 9-145.24. Annual report.—The Council shall submit an annual report of its activities for the preceding year to the Governor, the General Assembly and the governing bodies of the localities in the region.

§ 9-145.25. Cooperation of state agencies; planning district commissions.—All agencies of the Commonwealth shall cooperate with the Council and, upon request, assist the Council in the performance of its duties and responsibilities. Planning district commissions in the region shall provide staff support to the Council as requested.

1992 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 213

Offered January 21, 1992

Requesting the Blue Ridge Economic Development Advisory Council to develop a pilot export program.

Patrons—Jackson, Deeds and Woodrum

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, economic development has been a major topic of discussion and study throughout this Commonwealth during the past few years; and

WHEREAS, a number of strategies have been considered and adopted to encourage business to locate and expand within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission has examined the potential of exports and export promotion as one way to encourage the increased sale of goods produced in the Blue Ridge region; and

WHEREAS, many small and medium size firms appear to be reluctant to consider exporting to the world market because of the many unknowns; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial if a program could be developed to provide the information and technical understanding to help small and medium size firms explore the potential of exporting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Blue Ridge Economic Development Advisory Council is requested to develop a pilot export program. The Council should select one company from each sub-region willing to undertake exporting and coordinate the development of a marketing plan for exporting a company's product. The Council is encouraged to seek the assistance of the many institutions of higher education in the region as well as to keep the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission and the Department of Economic Development apprised of the results of the program.

A final report shall be submitted to the Governor and the 1993 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

1992 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 217

Offered January 21, 1992

Requesting Virginia Western Community College to develop a comprehensive regional technical training plan for the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth.

Patrons—Finney and Thomas; Senator: Nolen

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission was established in 1991 pursuant to House Joint Resolution No. 451 to propose recommendations to stimulate the economy of the region; and

WHEREAS, the Commission concluded that there is a need for a comprehensive regional technical training plan for the Blue Ridge region, as defined in House Joint Resolution No. 451; and

WHEREAS, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the development of such a plan to provide the detailed technical training needed to attract business to the region and prepare employees to compete in the complex job market of the present and future; and

WHEREAS, such a technical plan will create a blueprint for technical training in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, neighboring states such as Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee have already established comprehensive regional technology application and instruction centers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That Virginia Western Community College be hereby requested to develop a comprehensive regional technical plan for the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth. The plan developed by the college shall create a blueprint for technical training in the region by determining (i) the technical training needs of businesses and industries in the region; (ii) ways to accomplish these needs through new, unique teaching methods; and (iii) methods to acquire funding to provide the necessary training programs.

The college shall complete its work in time to submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the 1993 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

The costs of this study shall not exceed \$35,000.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to subsequent approval and certification by the Joint Rules Committee. The Committee may withhold expenditures or delay the period of the conduct of the study.

1992 SESSION

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 246

Offered January 21, 1992

Requesting the Virginia Tech Center for Hospitality Research and Service to study the design and operations of the Virginia Welcome Centers and to recommend changes in the centers to stimulate and support travel in the Commonwealth.

Patrons—Munford, Deeds, Jackson and Woodrum; Senators: Nolen and Schewel

Referred to the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Commonwealth to support, maintain and expand the Commonwealth's domestic travel markets, thereby generating increased visitor expenditures, tax revenues and employment; and

WHEREAS, tourism is one of the largest industries in Virginia, generating over \$7.1 billion in travel expenditures and providing direct employment for nearly 150,000 individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Welcome Centers are often the traveler's first and sometimes only exposure to the sights, attractions and history of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, these Welcome Centers have suffered severe budget cutbacks and are operating with reduced funding and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Welcome Centers have not been evaluated in recent years to assess their strengths and weaknesses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Virginia Tech Center for Hospitality Research and Service be requested to study the design and operations of the Virginia Welcome Centers and to recommend changes in the centers to stimulate and support travel in the Commonwealth. The Center shall (i) review the design and structure of the centers to ensure that the Center and its displays effectively present the Commonwealth, emphasizing the unique features of each region through decor and exhibits; (ii) consider the atmosphere of the centers, including the friendliness and helpfulness of the staff and the kind of staff interaction which occurs at these centers; (iii) examine ways to expand the centers' hours of operation to coincide with the needs and desires of the travelling public; and (iv) develop a pilot cooperative program whereby localities and regions may assist in staffing the centers on a volunteer basis, thus expanding staffing and extending hours of operation.

The Center for Hospitality Research and Service shall complete its work in time to make its recommendations to the Governor and the 1993 Session of the General Assembly as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents.

1992 SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 232

Offered January 21, 1992

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-205.1, relating to state parks.

Patrons—Trumbo; Delegate: Deeds

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 10.1 a section numbered 10.1-205.1 as follows:

§ 10.1-205.1. Pilot program; Douthat State Park.—The Department shall develop and implement a pilot program at Douthat State Park, whereby the park will remain open throughout the year in order to expand the recreational opportunities available to all citizens of the Commonwealth and to assist economic development in the Commonwealth by offering travelers in the region the opportunity to visit the park on a year-round basis and by creating year-round jobs for park employees. This pilot program shall be evaluated annually to consider its expansion to other state parks.

1992 SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 335

Offered January 21, 1992

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 59.1 a chapter numbered 22.2, consisting of sections numbered 59.1-284.7 through 59.1-284.12, to create the Blue Ridge Economic Development Revolving Fund.

Patrons—Nolen, Schewel and Trumbo; Delegates: Cranwell, Deeds, Finney, Munford and Putney

Referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 59.1 a chapter numbered 22.2, consisting of sections numbered 59.1-284.7 through 59.1-284.12 as follows:

CHAPTER 22.2.

THE BLUE RIDGE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING FUND.

§ 59.1-284.7. *Definitions.*—As used in this article, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

“Department” means the Department of Housing and Community Development.

“Fund” means the Blue Ridge Economic Development Revolving Fund.

“Board” means the Board of Housing and Community Development.

“Local government” means any county, city, town, municipal corporation, authority, district commission, or political subdivision created by the General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth or any combination of any two or more of the foregoing located in the Blue Ridge Region of the Commonwealth as defined by House Joint Resolution 451 (1991).

“Project” means any economic development project undertaken by local government to assist in creation or retention of jobs.

§ 59.1-284.8. *Creation and management of Fund.*—There shall be a permanent revolving fund known as the Blue Ridge Economic Development Revolving Fund. The Fund shall be comprised of (i) sums appropriated to it by the General Assembly, (ii) receipts by the Fund from loans made by it, (iii) all income from the investment of moneys held by the Fund, and (iv) any other sums designated for deposit to the Fund from any source, public or private. The Fund shall be administered and managed by the Department and shall be used solely for the purpose of financing projects as provided in § 59.1-284.11.

§ 59.1-284.9. *Deposit of money.*—All money belonging to the Fund shall be recorded on the books of the State Comptroller and deposited in accounts in banks or trust companies organized under the laws of the Commonwealth, in federally chartered banking institutions located in Virginia, or in savings institutions located in Virginia organized under the laws of the Commonwealth or the United States. Money in the Fund not needed for immediate use or disbursement may be invested or reinvested by the State Treasurer in obligations or securities that are considered lawful investments for public funds under the laws of the Commonwealth. Earnings from investments and interest shall be returned to the Fund.

§ 59.1-284.10. *Collection of money due to the Fund.*—The Department, or its designated agent, is empowered to collect amounts due to the Fund under any loan made to a local government, including, if appropriate, taking the action required by § 15.1-225 to obtain payment of any amounts in default. Proceedings to recover amounts due to the Fund may be instituted by the Department in the name of the Fund in any appropriate circuit court.

§ 59.1-284.11. *Loans to local governments in the Blue Ridge Region.*—A. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, money in the Fund shall be used to make loans to local governments in the Blue Ridge Region for the purpose of supporting projects and assisting localities to retain existing jobs and create new jobs through the expansion, diversification, or modernization of existing industry within the Blue Ridge Region for projects initiated within thirty miles of an existing site by providing below market interest

rate loans to industrial development authorities and other political entities of the Commonwealth.

B. The Department shall determine the terms and conditions of any loan from the Fund, including but not limited to the interest rate and repayment terms of each loan. All loans shall be evidenced by appropriate security. The Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development is authorized to require in connection with any loans from the Fund any documents, instruments, certificates, legal opinions, or other information he deems necessary or convenient.

C. All loans made from the Fund shall be approved by the Board.

§ 59.1-284.12. Annual audit.—The Auditor of Public Accounts shall annually audit the accounts of the Fund when he audits the Department's records.

1992 SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 345

Offered January 21, 1992

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 10.1-1307, 10.1-1308, 10.1-1402 and 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the powers and duties of the environmental permitting boards.

Patrons—Nolen, Chichester, Hawkins, Norment, Potts, Reasor, Russell, Stolle, Trumbo and Woods; Delegates: Council, DeBoer, Dickinson, Guest, Jennings, Munford and Quillen

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 10.1-1307, 10.1-1308, 10.1-1402 and 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 10.1-1307. Further powers and duties of Board.—A. The Board shall have the power to control and regulate its internal affairs; initiate and supervise research programs to determine the causes, effects, and hazards of air pollution; initiate and supervise statewide programs of air pollution control education; cooperate with and receive money from the federal government or any county or municipal government, and receive money from any other source, whether public or private; develop a comprehensive program for the study, abatement, and control of all sources of air pollution in the Commonwealth; and advise, consult, and cooperate with agencies of the United States and all agencies of the Commonwealth, political subdivisions, private industries, and any other affected groups in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter.

B. The Board may adopt by regulation emissions standards controlling the release into the atmosphere of air pollutants from motor vehicles, only as provided in Article 22 (§ 46.2-1176 et seq.) of Chapter 10 of Title 46.2.

C. After any regulation has been adopted by the Board pursuant to § 10.1-1308, it may in its discretion grant local variances therefrom, if it finds after an investigation and hearing that local conditions warrant. If local variances are permitted, the Board shall issue an order to this effect. Such order shall be subject to revocation or amendment at any time if the Board after a hearing determines that the amendment or revocation is warranted. Variances and amendments to variances shall be adopted only after a public hearing has been conducted pursuant to the public advertisement of the subject, date, time, and place of the hearing at least thirty days prior to the scheduled hearing. The hearing shall be conducted to give the public an opportunity to comment on the variance.

D. After the Board has adopted the regulations provided for in § 10.1-1308, it shall have the power to: (i) initiate and receive complaints as to air pollution; (ii) hold or cause to be held hearings and enter orders diminishing or abating the causes of air pollution and orders to enforce its regulations pursuant to § 10.1-1309; and (iii) institute legal proceedings, including suits for injunctions for the enforcement of its orders, regulations, and the abatement and control of air pollution and for the enforcement of penalties.

E. The Board in making regulations and in approving variances, control programs, or permits, and the courts in granting injunctive relief under the provisions of this chapter, shall consider facts and circumstances relevant to the reasonableness of the activity involved and the regulations proposed to control it, including:

1. The character and degree of injury to, or interference with, safety, health, or the reasonable use of property which is caused or threatened to be caused;
2. The social and economic value of the activity involved;
3. The suitability of the activity to the area in which it is located; and
4. The scientific and economic practicality of reducing or eliminating the discharge resulting from such activity.

F. The Board may designate one of its members, the Director, or a staff assistant to conduct the hearings provided for in this chapter. A record of the hearing shall be made and furnished to the Board for its use in arriving at its decision.

G. The Board shall submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before October 1 of each year on matters relating to the Commonwealth's air pollution control policies and on the status of the Commonwealth's air quality. The annual report shall be distributed in accordance with the provisions of § 2.1-467.

H. *The Board shall develop and make available to all applicants a uniform permit application form regardless of the type of permit for which application is made.*

§ 10.1-1308. Regulations.—The Board, after having studied air pollution in the various areas of the Commonwealth, its causes, prevention, control and abatement, shall have the power to promulgate, regulations, including emergency regulations, abating, controlling and prohibiting air pollution throughout or in any part of the Commonwealth in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) , *except that no regulation promulgated by the Board shall be more restrictive than applicable federal requirements, unless the need for the regulation has been explained to the standing committee of each house of the General Assembly to which matters relating to the content of the regulation are most properly referable* . No such regulation, shall prohibit the burning of leaves from trees by persons on property where they reside if the local governing body of the county, city or town has enacted an otherwise valid ordinance regulating such burning. The regulations shall not promote or encourage any substantial degradation of present air quality in any air basin or region which has an air quality superior to that stipulated in the regulations. Any regulations adopted by the Board to have general effect in part or all of the Commonwealth shall be filed in accordance with the Virginia Register Act (§ 9-6.15 et seq.).

§ 10.1-1402. Powers and duties of the Board.—The Board shall carry out the purposes and provisions of this chapter and compatible provisions of federal acts and is authorized to:

1. Supervise and control waste management activities in the Commonwealth.
2. Consult, advise and coordinate with the Governor, the Secretary, the General Assembly, and other state and federal agencies for the purpose of implementing this chapter and the federal acts.
3. Provide technical assistance and advice concerning all aspects of waste management.
4. Develop and keep current state waste management plans and provide technical assistance, advice and other aid for the development and implementation of local and regional waste management plans.
5. Promote the development of resource conservation and resource recovery systems and provide technical assistance and advice on resource conservation, resource recovery and resource recovery systems.
6. Collect data necessary to conduct the state waste programs, including data on the identification of and amounts of waste generated, transported, stored, treated or disposed, and resource recovery.
7. Require any person who generates, collects, transports, stores or provides treatment or disposal of a hazardous waste to maintain records, manifests and reporting systems required pursuant to federal statute or regulation.
8. Designate, in accordance with criteria and listings identified under federal statute or regulation, classes, types or lists of waste which it deems to be hazardous.
9. Consult and coordinate with the heads of appropriate state and federal agencies, independent regulatory agencies and other governmental instrumentalities for the purpose of achieving maximum effectiveness and enforcement of this chapter while imposing the least burden of duplicative requirements on those persons subject to the provisions of this chapter.
10. Apply for federal funds and transmit such funds to appropriate persons.
11. Promulgate and enforce regulations, and provide for reasonable variances and exemptions necessary to carry out its powers and duties and the intent of this chapter and the federal acts , *except that no regulation promulgated by the Board shall be more restrictive than applicable federal requirements, unless the need for the regulation has*

been explained to the standing committee of each house of the General Assembly to which matters relating to the content of the regulation are most properly referable .

12. Subject to the approval of the Governor, acquire by purchase, exercise of the right of eminent domain as provided in Chapter 1.1 (§ 25-46.1 et seq.) of Title 25, grant, gift, devise or otherwise, the fee simple title to any lands, selected in the discretion of the Board as constituting necessary and appropriate sites to be used for the management of hazardous waste as defined in this chapter, including lands adjacent to the site as the Board may deem necessary or suitable for restricted areas. In all instances the Board shall dedicate lands so acquired in perpetuity to such purposes. In its selection of a site pursuant to this subdivision, the Board shall consider the appropriateness of any state-owned property for a disposal site in accordance with the criteria for selection of a hazardous waste management site.

13. Assume responsibility for the perpetual custody and maintenance of any hazardous waste management facilities.

14. Collect, from any person operating or using a hazardous waste management facility, fees sufficient to finance such perpetual custody and maintenance due to that facility as may be necessary. All fees received by the Board pursuant to this subdivision shall be used exclusively to satisfy the responsibilities assumed by the Board for the perpetual custody and maintenance of hazardous waste management facilities.

15. Collect, from any person operating or proposing to operate a hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facility or any person transporting hazardous waste, permit application fees sufficient to defray only costs related to the issuance of permits as required in this chapter in accordance with Board regulations, but such fees shall not exceed costs necessary to implement this subdivision. All fees received by the Board pursuant to this subdivision shall be used exclusively for the hazardous waste management program set forth herein.

16. Collect, from any person operating or proposing to operate a sanitary landfill or other facility for the disposal, treatment or storage of nonhazardous solid waste, permit application fees sufficient to defray only costs related to the issuance of permits as required in this chapter in accordance with Board regulations, but such fees shall not exceed costs necessary to issue such permits. All such fees received by the Board shall be used exclusively for the solid waste management program set forth herein. The Board shall establish a schedule of fees by regulation and in doing so shall give consideration to the type of facility and the financial resources of the applicant.

17. Issue, deny, amend and revoke certification of site suitability for hazardous waste facilities in accordance with this chapter.

18. Make separate orders and regulations it deems necessary to meet any emergency to protect public health, natural resources and the environment from the release or imminent threat of release of waste.

19. Take actions to contain or clean up sites or to issue orders to require cleanup of sites where solid or hazardous waste, or other substances within the jurisdiction of the Board, have been improperly managed and to institute legal proceedings to recover the costs of the containment or clean-up activities from the responsible parties.

20. Collect, hold, manage and disburse funds received for violations of solid and hazardous waste laws and regulations or court orders pertaining thereto pursuant to subdivision 19 of this section for the purpose of responding to solid or hazardous waste incidents and clean-up of sites which have been improperly managed, including sites eligible for a joint federal and state remedial project under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, Public Law 96-510, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Public Law 99-499, and for investigations to identify parties responsible for such mismanagement.

21. Abate hazards and nuisances dangerous to public health, safety or the environment, both emergency and otherwise, created by the improper disposal, treatment, storage, transportation or management of substances within the jurisdiction of the Board.

22. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, regulate the management of mixed radioactive waste.

23. *Develop and make available to all applicants a uniform permit application form regardless of the type of permit for which application is made.*

§ 62.1-44.15. Powers and duties.—It shall be the duty of the Board and it shall have the authority:

(1) [Repealed.]

(2) To study and investigate all problems concerned with the quality of state waters and to make reports and recommendations.

(2a) To study and investigate methods, procedures, devices, appliances, and technologies which could assist in water conservation or water consumption reduction.

(2b) To coordinate its efforts toward water conservation with other persons or groups, within or without the Commonwealth.

(2c) To make reports concerning, and formulate recommendations based upon, any such water conservation studies to assure that present and future water needs of the citizens of the Commonwealth are met.

(3a) To establish such standards of quality and policies for any state waters consistent with the general policy set forth in this chapter, and to modify, amend or cancel any such standards or policies established and to take all appropriate steps to prevent quality alteration contrary to the public interest or to standards or policies thus established, *except that no standard or policy established by the Board shall be more restrictive than applicable federal requirements, unless the need for the standard or policy is explained to the standing committee of each house of the General Assembly to which matters relating to the content of the standard or policy are most properly referable*. The Board shall, from time to time, but at least once every three years, hold public hearings pursuant to subsection B of § 9-6.14:7.1 but, upon the request of an affected person or upon its own motion, hold hearings pursuant to § 9-6.14:8, for the purpose of reviewing the standards of quality, and, as appropriate, adopting, modifying, or cancelling such standards. Whenever the Board considers the adoption, modification, amendment or cancellation of any standard, it shall give due consideration to, among other factors, the economic and social costs and benefits which can reasonably be expected to obtain as a consequence of the standards as adopted, modified, amended or cancelled. The Board shall also give due consideration to the public health standards issued by the Virginia Department of Health with respect to issues of public health policy and protection. If the Board does not follow the public health standards of the Virginia Department of Health, the Board's reason for any deviation shall be made in writing and published for any and all concerned parties.

(3b) Except as provided in subdivision (3a), such standards and policies are to be adopted or modified, amended or cancelled in the manner provided by the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.).

(4) To conduct or have conducted scientific experiments, investigations, studies, and research to discover methods for maintaining water quality consistent with the purposes of this chapter. To this end the Board may cooperate with any public or private agency in the conduct of such experiments, investigations and research and may receive in behalf of the Commonwealth any moneys which any such agency may contribute as its share of the cost under any such cooperative agreement. Such moneys shall be used only for the purposes for which they are contributed and any balance remaining after the conclusion of the experiments, investigations, studies, and research, shall be returned to the contributors.

(5) To issue certificates for the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes into or adjacent to or the alteration otherwise of the physical, chemical or biological properties of state waters under prescribed conditions and to revoke or amend such certificates.

(5a) All certificates issued by the Board under this chapter shall have fixed terms. The term of a Virginia Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit shall not exceed five years. The term of a Virginia Pollution Abatement permit shall not exceed ten years,

except that the term of a Virginia Pollution Abatement permit for concentrated animal feeding operations shall not exceed five years. The term of a certificate issued by the Board shall not be extended by modification beyond the maximum duration and the certificate shall expire at the end of the term unless an application for a new permit has been timely filed as required by the regulations of the Board and the Board is unable, through no fault of the permittee, to issue a new permit before the expiration date of the previous permit.

(5b) Any certificate issued by the Board under this chapter may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, be amended or revoked on any of the following grounds or for good cause as may be provided by the regulations of the Board:

1. The owner has violated any regulation or order of the Board, any condition of a certificate, any provision of this chapter, or any order of a court, where such violation results in a release of harmful substances into the environment or poses a substantial threat of release of harmful substances into the environment or presents a hazard to human health or the violation is representative of a pattern of serious or repeated violations which, in the opinion of the Board, demonstrates the owner's disregard for or inability to comply with applicable laws, regulations, or requirements;

2. The owner has failed to disclose fully all relevant material facts or has misrepresented a material fact in applying for a certificate, or in any other report or document required under this law or under the regulations of the Board;

3. The activity for which the certificate was issued endangers human health or the environment and can be regulated to acceptable levels by amendment or revocation of the certificate; or

4. There exists a material change in the basis on which the permit was issued that requires either a temporary or a permanent reduction or elimination of any discharge controlled by the certificate necessary to protect human health or the environment.

(6) To make investigations and inspections, to ensure compliance with any certificates, standards, policies, rules, regulations, rulings and special orders which it may adopt, issue or establish and to furnish advice, recommendations, or instructions for the purpose of obtaining such compliance. In recognition of §§ 32.1-164 and 62.1-44.18, the Board and the State Department of Health shall enter into a memorandum of understanding establishing a common format to consolidate and simplify inspections of sewage treatment plants and coordinate the scheduling of the inspections. The new format shall ensure that all sewage treatment plants are inspected at appropriate intervals in order to protect water quality and public health and at the same time avoid any unnecessary administrative burden on those being inspected.

(7) To adopt rules governing the procedure of the Board with respect to: (a) hearings; (b) the filing of reports; (c) the issuance of certificates and special orders; and (d) all other matters relating to procedure; and to amend or cancel any rule adopted. Public notice of every rule adopted under this section shall be by such means as the Board may prescribe.

(8a) To issue special orders to owners (i) who are permitting or causing the pollution, as defined by § 62.1-44.3, of state waters to cease and desist from such pollution, (ii) who have failed to construct facilities in accordance with final approved plans and specifications to construct such facilities in accordance with final approved plans and specifications, (iii) who have violated the terms and provisions of a certificate issued by the Board to comply with such terms and provisions, (iv) who have failed to comply with a directive from the Board to comply with such directive, (v) who have contravened duly adopted and promulgated water quality standards and policies to cease and desist from such contravention and to comply with such water quality standards and policies, (vi) who have violated the terms and provisions of a pretreatment permit issued by the Board or by the owner of a publicly owned treatment works to comply with such terms and provisions or (vii) who have contravened any applicable pretreatment standard or requirement to comply with such standard or requirement; and also to issue such orders to require any owner to

comply with the provisions of this chapter and any decision of the Board.

(8b) Such special orders are to be issued only after a hearing with at least thirty days' notice to the affected owners, of the time, place and purpose thereof, and they shall become effective not less than fifteen days after service as provided in § 62.1-44.12; provided that if the Board finds that any such owner is grossly affecting or presents an imminent and substantial danger to (i) the public health, safety or welfare, or the health of animals, fish or aquatic life; (ii) a public water supply; or (iii) recreational, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other reasonable uses, it may issue, without advance notice or hearing, an emergency special order directing the owner to cease such pollution or discharge immediately, and shall provide an opportunity for a hearing, after reasonable notice as to the time and place thereof to the owner, to affirm, modify, amend or cancel such emergency special order. If an owner who has been issued such a special order or an emergency special order is not complying with the terms thereof, the Board may proceed in accordance with § 62.1-44.23, and where the order is based on a finding of an imminent and substantial danger, the court shall issue an injunction compelling compliance with the emergency special order pending a hearing by the Board. If an emergency special order requires cessation of a discharge, the Board shall provide an opportunity for a hearing within forty-eight hours of the issuance of the injunction.

(8c) The provisions of this section notwithstanding, the Board may proceed directly under § 62.1-44.32 for any past violation or violations of any provision of this chapter or any regulation duly promulgated hereunder.

(8d) With the consent of any owner who has violated or failed, neglected or refused to obey any regulation or order of the Board, any condition of a permit or any provision of this chapter, the Board may provide, in an order issued by the Board against such person, for the payment of civil charges for past violations in specific sums not to exceed the limit specified in subsection (a) of § 62.1-44.32. Such civil charges shall be instead of any appropriate civil penalty which could be imposed under subsection (a) of § 62.1-44.32 and shall not be subject to the provisions of § 2.1-127. Such civil charges shall be paid into the state treasury and deposited by the State Treasurer into the Virginia Environmental Emergency Response Fund pursuant to Chapter 25 of Title 10.1, excluding civil charges assessed for violations of Article 9 or 10 of Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1, or a regulation, administrative or judicial order, or term or condition of approval relating to or issued under those articles.

The amendments to this section adopted by the 1976 Session of the General Assembly shall not be construed as limiting or expanding any cause of action or any other remedy possessed by the Board prior to the effective date of said amendments.

(9) To make such rulings under §§ 62.1-44.16, 62.1-44.17 and 62.1-44.19 as may be required upon requests or applications to the Board, the owner or owners affected to be notified by certified mail as soon as practicable after the Board makes them and such rulings to become effective upon such notification.

(10) To adopt such regulations as it deems necessary to enforce the general water quality management program of the Board in all or part of the Commonwealth, *except that no regulation promulgated by the Board shall be more restrictive than applicable federal requirements, unless the need for the regulation is explained to the standing committee of each house of the General Assembly to which matters relating to the content of the regulation are most properly referable.*

(11) To investigate any large-scale killing of fish.

(a) Whenever the Board shall determine that any owner, whether or not he shall have been issued a certificate for discharge of waste, has discharged sewage, industrial waste, or other waste into state waters in such quantity, concentration or manner that fish are killed as a result thereof it may effect such settlement with the owner as will cover the costs incurred by the Board and by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in investigating such killing of fish, plus the replacement value of the fish destroyed, or as it deems proper, and if no such settlement is reached within a reasonable time the Board

shall authorize its executive secretary to bring a civil action in the name of the Board to recover from the owner such costs and value, plus any court or other legal costs incurred in connection with such action.

(b) If the owner be a political subdivision of the Commonwealth the action may be brought in any circuit court within the territory embraced by such political subdivision. If the owner be an establishment, as defined in this chapter, the action shall be brought in the circuit court of the city or the circuit court of the county in which such establishment is located. If the owner be an individual or group of individuals the action shall be brought in the circuit court of the city or circuit court of the county in which such person or any of them reside.

(c) For the purposes of this subsection the State Water Control Board shall be deemed the owner of the fish killed and the proceedings shall be as though the State Water Control Board were the owner of the fish. The fact that the owner has or held a certificate issued under this chapter shall not be raised as a defense in bar to any such action.

(d) The proceeds of any recovery had under this subsection shall, when received by the Board, be applied, first, to reimburse the Board for any expenses incurred in investigating such killing of fish. The balance shall be paid to the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries to be used for the fisheries' management practices as in its judgment will best restore or replace the fisheries' values lost as a result of such discharge of waste, including, where appropriate, replacement of the fish killed with game fish or other appropriate species. Any such funds received are hereby appropriated for that purpose.

(e) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed in any way to limit or prevent any other action which is now authorized by law by the Board against any owner.

(f) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any owner who adds or applies any chemicals or other substances that are recommended or approved by the State Department of Health to state waters in the course of processing or treating such waters for public water supply purposes, except where negligence is shown.

(12) To administer programs of financial assistance for planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of water quality control facilities for political subdivisions in this Commonwealth.

(13) To establish policies and programs for effective area-wide or basin-wide water quality control and management. The Board may develop comprehensive pollution abatement and water quality control plans on an area-wide or basin-wide basis. In conjunction with this, the Board, when considering proposals for waste treatment facilities, is to consider the feasibility of combined or joint treatment facilities and is to ensure that the approval of waste treatment facilities is in accordance with the water quality management and pollution control plan in the watershed or basin as a whole. In making such determinations, the Board is to seek the advice of local, regional, or state planning authorities.

(14) To establish requirements for the treatment of sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes that are consistent with the purposes of this chapter; however, no treatment will be less than secondary or its equivalent, unless the owner can demonstrate that a lesser degree of treatment is consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(15) To develop and make available to all applicants a uniform permit application form regardless of the type of permit for which application is made.

1992 SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 379 Offered January 21, 1992

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 10.1-1321.1, 10.1-1408.1, 10.1-1411, and 62.1-44.15:3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to review of environmental permit applications.

Patrons—Nolen, Chichester, Hawkins, Norment, Potts, Reasor, Russell, Stolle, Trumbo and Woods; Delegates: Councill, Dickinson, Guest, Jennings, Munford and Quillen

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 10.1-1321.1, 10.1-1408.1, 10.1-1411 and 62.1-44.15:3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 10.1-1321.1. When application for permit considered complete; review of application.—A. No application for a permit for a new or modified stationary air pollution source shall be considered complete unless the applicant has provided the Director with notification from the governing body of the county, city, or town in which the source is to be located that the location and operation of the source are consistent with all ordinances adopted pursuant to Chapter 11 (§ 15.1-427 et seq.) of Title 15.1.

B. The governing body shall inform the applicant and the Department of the source's compliance or noncompliance not more than 120 days from receipt by the chief executive officer, or his agent, of a request from the applicant.

C. The provisions of this section shall apply only to applications received after July 1, 1990.

D. Within forty-five days from the receipt of an application for a permit for a new or modified stationary air pollution source, the Board shall make a determination of the completeness of the application. If no determination of completeness is made within forty-five days, the application shall be deemed complete unless the applicant and the Board have consented in writing to an extension of the forty-five-day review period.

E. If the Board determines the application is complete, it shall inform the applicant in writing and commence its review of the application for the issuance of a permit in accordance with subsection G of this section.

F. If the Board determines that the application is not complete, the Board shall notify the applicant that the application must be corrected in the particulars specified within thirty days. If the corrections are not submitted within the time allowed, the Board shall reject the application and notify the applicant in writing of the basis for the rejection. If the corrections are submitted within the time allowed, the Board shall review the revised application within thirty days of receipt of the revised application to determine if it is complete. If the Board determines the application is not complete, it shall again notify the applicant in writing of the remaining deficiencies in the application and allow another thirty days for correction by the applicant. If the Board then determines the application is complete, it shall inform the applicant in writing and commence its review of the application for the issuance of a permit in accordance with subsection G of this section. Following the Board's second review of the revised application, if the Board determines the application is not complete, it shall reject the application and notify the applicant in writing of the basis for the rejection.

G. Once an application for a permit for a new or modified stationary air pollution source is deemed complete, the Board shall, within six months, issue a permit to the applicant or reject the application; however, if meteorological data or other on-site data collection, or a review by the federal land manager is required, the Board shall have eighteen months to issue the permit or reject the application. If the application is not acted upon within six months or eighteen months, as appropriate, the application shall be deemed approved.

§ 10.1-1408.1. Permit required; review of permit application; open dumps prohibited.—A.

No person shall operate any sanitary landfill or other facility for the disposal, treatment or storage of nonhazardous solid waste without a permit from the Director.

B. No application for a new solid waste management facility permit shall be complete unless it contains the following:

1. Certification from the governing body of the county, city or town in which the facility is to be located that the location and operation of the facility are consistent with all applicable ordinances. The governing body shall inform the applicant and the Department of the facility's compliance or noncompliance not more than 120 days from receipt of a request from the applicant. No such certification shall be required for the application for the renewal of a permit or transfer of a permit as authorized by regulations of the Board; and

2. A disclosure statement, except that the Director, upon request and in his sole discretion and when in his judgment other information is sufficient and available, may waive the requirement for a disclosure statement for a captive industrial landfill when such a statement would not serve the purposes of this chapter.

C. Within forty-five days from the receipt of an application for a permit issued under this article, the Board shall make a determination of the completeness of the application. If no determination of completeness is made within forty-five days, the application shall be deemed complete unless the applicant and the Board have consented in writing to an extension of the forty-five-day review period.

D. If the Board determines the application is complete, it shall inform the applicant in writing and commence its review of the application for the issuance of a permit in accordance with subsection F of this section.

E. If the Board determines that the application is not complete, the Board shall notify the applicant that the application must be corrected in the particulars specified within thirty days. If the corrections are not submitted within the time allowed, the Board shall reject the application and notify the applicant in writing of the basis for the rejection. If the corrections are submitted within the time allowed, the Board shall review the revised application within thirty days of receipt of the revised application to determine if it is complete. If the Board determines the application is not complete, it shall again notify the applicant in writing of the remaining deficiencies in the application and allow another thirty days for correction by the applicant. If the Board then determines the application is complete, it shall inform the applicant in writing and commence its review of the application for the issuance of a permit in accordance with subsection F of this section. Following the Board's second review of the revised application, if the Board determines the application is not complete, it shall reject the application and notify the applicant in writing of the basis for the rejection.

F. Once an application for a permit issued under this article is deemed complete, the Board shall, within six months, issue a permit to the applicant or reject the application; however, if meteorological data or other on-site data collection, or a review by the Environmental Protection Agency or its designee is required, the Board shall have eighteen months to issue the permit or reject the application. If the application is not acted upon within six months or eighteen months, as appropriate, the application shall be deemed approved.

G. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

1. Every holder of a permit issued under this article who has not earlier filed a disclosure statement shall, prior to July 1, 1991, file a disclosure statement with the Director.

2. Every applicant for a permit under this article shall file a disclosure statement with the Director together with the permit application or prior to September 1, 1990, whichever comes later. No permit application shall be deemed incomplete for lack of a disclosure statement prior to September 1, 1990.

3. Every applicant shall update its disclosure statement quarterly to indicate any change of condition that renders any portion of the disclosure statement materially incomplete or

inaccurate.

4. The Director, upon request and in his sole discretion, and when in his judgment other information is sufficient and available, may waive the requirements of this subsection for a captive industrial waste landfill when such requirements would not serve the purposes of this chapter.

D. H. No permit for a new solid waste management facility shall be issued until the Director has determined, after investigation and evaluation of comments by the local government, that the proposed facility poses no substantial present or potential danger to human health or the environment. At the request of the local governing body, the Department shall hold a public hearing within the said county, city or town prior to the issuance of any such permit for the management of nonhazardous solid waste.

E. I. The permit shall contain such conditions or requirements as are necessary to comply with the requirements of this Code and the regulations of the Board and to prevent a substantial present or potential hazard to human health and the environment.

The Director may include in any permit such recordkeeping, testing and reporting requirements as are necessary to ensure that the local governing body of the county, city or town where the waste management facility is located is kept timely informed regarding the general nature and quantity of waste being disposed of at the facility. Such recordkeeping, testing and reporting requirements shall require disclosure of proprietary information only as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter. At least once every ten years, the Director shall review and issue written findings on the environmental compliance history of each permittee, material changes, if any, in key personnel, and technical limitations, standards, or regulations on which the original permit was based. The time period for review of each category of permits shall be established by Board regulation. If, upon such review, the Director finds that repeated material or substantial violations of the permittee or material changes in the permittee's key personnel would make continued operation of the facility not in the best interests of human health or the environment, the Director shall amend or revoke the permit, in accordance herewith. Whenever such review is undertaken, the Director may amend the permit to include additional limitations, standards, or conditions when the technical limitations, standards, or regulations on which the original permit was based have been changed by statute or amended by regulation or when any of the conditions in subsection B of § 10.1-1409 exist. The Director may deny, revoke, or suspend any permit for any of the grounds listed under subsection A of § 10.1-1409.

F. J. There shall exist no right to operate a landfill or other facility for the disposal, treatment or storage of nonhazardous solid waste or hazardous waste within the Commonwealth. Permits for solid waste management facilities shall not be transferable except as authorized in regulations promulgated by the Board. The issuance of a permit shall not convey or establish any property rights or any exclusive privilege, nor shall it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights or any infringement of federal, state, or local law or regulation.

G. K. No person shall dispose of solid waste in open dumps.

H. L. No person shall own, operate or allow to be operated on his property an open dump.

I. M. No person shall allow waste to be disposed of on his property without a permit. Any person who removes trees, brush, or other vegetation from land used for agricultural or forestal purposes shall not be required to obtain a permit if such material is deposited or placed on the same or other property of the same landowner from which such materials were cleared. The Board shall by regulation provide for other reasonable exemptions from permitting requirements for the disposal of trees, brush and other vegetation when such materials are removed for agricultural or forestal purposes.

When promulgating any regulation pursuant to this section, the Board shall consider the character of the land affected, the density of population, the volume of waste to be disposed, as well as other relevant factors.

J. N. No permit shall be required pursuant to this section for recycling or for temporary storage incidental to recycling. As used in this subsection "recycling" means any process whereby material which would otherwise be solid waste is used or reused, or prepared for use or reuse, as an ingredient in an industrial process to make a product, or as an effective substitute for a commercial product.

K. O. The Board shall provide for reasonable exemptions from the permitting requirements, both procedural and substantive, in order to encourage the development of yard waste composting facilities. To accomplish this, the Board is authorized to exempt such facilities from regulations governing the treatment of waste and to establish an expedited approval process.

L. P. In receiving and processing applications for permits required by this section, the Director shall assign top priority to applications which (i) agree to accept nonhazardous recycling residues and (ii) pledge to charge tipping fees for disposal of nonhazardous recycling residues which do not exceed those charged for nonhazardous municipal solid waste. Applications meeting these requirements shall be acted upon no later than six months after they are deemed complete.

§ 10.1-1411. Regional and local solid waste management plans.—The Board is authorized to promulgate regulations specifying requirements for local and regional solid waste management plans.

To implement regional plans, the Governor may designate regional boundaries. The governing bodies of the counties, cities and towns within any region so designated shall be responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive regional solid waste management plan in cooperation with any planning district commission or commissions in the region. Where a county, city or town is not part of a regional plan, it shall develop and implement a local solid waste management plan in accordance with the Board's regulations.

The Board's regulations shall include all aspects of solid waste management including waste reduction, recycling and reuse, storage, treatment, and disposal and shall require that consideration be given to the handling of all types of nonhazardous solid waste generated in the region or locality. In promulgating such regulations, the Board shall consider urban concentrations, geographic conditions, markets, transportation conditions, and other appropriate factors and shall provide for reasonable variances and exemptions thereto, as well as variances or exemptions from the minimum recycling rates specified herein when market conditions beyond the control of a county, city, town, or region make such mandatory rates unreasonable. The regulations shall require that local or regional plans identify how the following minimum recycling rates shall be achieved: ten percent by 1991, fifteen percent by 1993, and twenty-five percent by 1995. The regulations shall permit a credit of one ton for each one ton of recycling residue generated in Virginia and deposited in a landfill permitted under subsection **L. P.** of § 10.1-1408.1. The total annual credits shall not exceed one-fifth of the twenty-five percent requirement.

After July 1, 1992, no permit for a solid waste management facility shall be issued until the local or regional applicant has a plan approved by the Board in accordance with the regulations.

If a county levies a consumer utility tax and the ordinance provides that revenues derived from such source, to the extent necessary, be used for solid waste disposal, the county may charge a town or its residents, establishments and institutions an amount not to exceed their pro rata cost, based upon population for such solid waste management if the town levies a consumer utility tax. This shall not prohibit a county from charging for disposal of industrial or commercial waste on a county-wide basis, including that originating within the corporate limits of towns.

§ 62.1-44.15:3. When application for certificate to discharge considered complete; review of application.—A. No application for a certificate to discharge sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes into or adjacent to state waters shall be considered complete unless the applicant has provided the Executive Director with notification from the governing body of

the county, city or town in which the discharge is to take place that the location and operation of the discharging facility is consistent with all ordinances adopted pursuant to Chapter 11 (§ 15.1-427 et seq.) of Title 15.1. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any applicant exempt from compliance under Chapter 11 of Title 15.1 or to any discharge for which a valid certificate had been issued prior to July 1, 1987.

B. No application for a certificate to discharge sewage into or adjacent to state waters from a privately owned wastewater treatment system serving fifty or more residences shall be considered complete unless the applicant has provided the Executive Director with notification from the State Corporation Commission that the applicant is incorporated in the Commonwealth and is in compliance with all regulations and relevant orders of the State Corporation Commission.

C. Within forty-five days from the receipt of an application for a certificate to discharge sewage, industrial waste, or other wastes into or adjacent to state waters, the Board shall make a determination of the completeness of the application. If no determination of completeness is made within forty-five days, the application shall be deemed complete unless the applicant and the Board have consented in writing to an extension of the forty-five-day review period.

D. If the Board determines the application is complete, it shall inform the applicant in writing and commence its review of the application for the issuance of a permit in accordance with subsection F of this section.

E. If the Board determines that the application is not complete, the Board shall notify the applicant that the application must be corrected in the particulars specified within thirty days. If the corrections are not submitted within the time allowed, the Board shall reject the application and notify the applicant in writing of the basis for the rejection. If the corrections are submitted within the time allowed, the Board shall review the revised application within thirty days of receipt of the revised application to determine if it is complete. If the Board determines the application is not complete, it shall again notify the applicant in writing of the remaining deficiencies in the application and allow another thirty days for correction by the applicant. If the Board then determines the application is complete, it shall inform the applicant in writing and commence its review of the application for the issuance of a permit in accordance with subsection F of this section. Following the Board's second review of the revised application, if the Board determines the application is not complete, it shall reject the application and notify the applicant in writing of the basis for the rejection.

F. Once an application for a certificate to discharge sewage, industrial wastes and other wastes into or adjacent to state waters is deemed complete, the Board shall, within six months, issue a permit to the applicant or reject the application; however, if meteorological data or other on-site data collection, or a review by the Environmental Protection Agency or its designee is required, the Board shall have eighteen months to issue the permit or reject the application. If the application is not acted upon within six months or eighteen months, as appropriate, the application shall be deemed approved.

1992 SESSION

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 92

Offered January 21, 1992

Requesting the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University to expand its research initiatives in the Blue Ridge region.

Patrons—Nolen, Trumbo and Schewel; Delegates: Cranwell, Deeds, Finney, Munford and Putney

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has a long and distinguished history of providing high quality programs through classroom, laboratory and field education, research studies, experiments, and extension education programs to meet the needs of Virginia's agriculture and forest industries; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech is a major university committed to serving the people of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, dissemination of new knowledge and the application of that knowledge by its citizens are essential to make Virginians competitive in a national and global economy; and

WHEREAS, economic competitiveness and protection of the environment are key components to elevating the living standards of Virginia citizens, both individually and collectively; and

WHEREAS, waste management, new products made available through biotechnology, and information technology are essential to future economic growth and environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, the economic development efforts of the Blue Ridge region would be greatly enhanced through innovative applications of forestal, agricultural and biotechnological resources endemic to the Blue Ridge region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University expand its research initiatives to establish new programs and innovative applications of environmental science, agricultural biotechnology and information technology for the Blue Ridge region; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech advise the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission in October of each year in which the Commission is in existence of the school's progress in implementing this resolution and report any findings or recommendations.

1992 SESSION

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 93

Offered January 21, 1992

Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to give high priority to the improvement of Routes 60, 220, 460 and 501 and like "feeder roads" in the Blue Ridge region.

Patrons—Nolen, Trumbo and Schewel; Delegates: Cranwell, Deeds, Finney, Munford and Putney

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, the interstate highway system is of limited benefit to the economies of the Commonwealth and the communities through which it passes if access is restricted by the poor quality of "feeder roads"; and

WHEREAS, the interstate highway system cannot be relied on exclusively to address the concerns of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, a broad-based, comprehensive look at the totality of the highway system in Virginia is needed; and

WHEREAS, the improvement of Routes 60, 220, 460, and 501 and other "feeder roads" to the interstate system would have numerous benefits to the Commonwealth; it would provide a stimulus to the economies of the Commonwealth and the communities through which they pass; and it would aid tourism and industrial development for Virginia's entire Blue Ridge region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Virginia Department of Transportation give high priority to the improvement of Routes 60, 220, 460 and 501 and like "feeder roads" in the Blue Ridge region.

1992 SESSION

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 94

Offered January 21, 1992

Requesting the Virginia Department of Transportation to take prompt action on the Route 29 Corridor project.

Patrons—Nolen and Schewel; Delegates: Cranwell, Finney, Munford and Putney

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, in 1987 the Congress of the United States, under the Public Works Act, established certain federal trust funds to aid the several states in the development of their highways; and

WHEREAS, such funds have not, however, entirely been used for these purposes, but instead have been held in reserve by the federal government in order to appear to reduce the federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, the possibility exists of constructing a modern, multilane, limited-access highway through Virginia along US Route 29; and

WHEREAS, the construction of such a highway would have numerous benefits to the Commonwealth: it would relieve some of the traffic congestion on Interstate Routes 95, 85, and 81; it would provide a stimulus to the economies of the Commonwealth and the communities through which it would pass; and it would aid tourism and industrial development for Virginia's entire Blue Ridge region; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Virginia Department of Transportation take prompt action on the improvement of the Route 29 Corridor project as soon as funds in the federal Highway Trust Fund assigned to the Commonwealth are released; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) shall report on the status of the federal Highway Trust Fund and the priority assigned by VDOT to the Route 29 Corridor project to the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission by October 15, 1992.

1992 SESSION

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 95

Offered January 21, 1992

Requesting the Secretary of Natural Resources to review the current status of, and the need for improvement in, environmental improvement projects.

Patrons—Nolen, Schewel and Trumbo; Delegates: Cranwell, Deeds, Finney, Munford and Putney

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, "waste minimization" is the reduction in volume and toxicity of wastes generated, treated, stored or disposed of on land, emitted to the air or discharged to surface or ground waters; and

WHEREAS, waste drains the limited resources of our governments and institutions, erodes the competitive advantage of our industries, and is an inefficient use of natural or economic resources; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 the General Assembly created the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) to alleviate in part the Commonwealth's critical need for additional sources of funding to finance the present and future needs of the Commonwealth and its localities for recycling programs, wastewater treatment plants, and solid waste disposal facilities; and

WHEREAS, the VRA has the power to make grants to local governments, out of available funds, to assist such localities in furtherance of VRA's mission; and

WHEREAS, after 20 years of focusing on waste management, agencies, industries, and the public are realizing the inevitable: waste must be prevented before it is created; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Secretary of Natural Resources shall:

1. Review the current status of, and the need for improvements in, recycling programs, wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal facilities which are available to local governments in the Blue Ridge Region (as defined by HJR 451, 1991);

2. Develop a plan which shall include an inventory of need in the Blue Ridge Region for improved recycling programs, wastewater treatment plants and solid waste disposal facilities;

3. Develop a method for prioritizing such environmental improvement projects;

4. Ascertain the funds available from state, federal and other sources for environmental improvement projects; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Secretary of Natural Resources submit this review and plan to the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission by October 15, 1992.

1992 SESSION

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 106

Offered January 21, 1992

Memorializing Congress to release funds under the federal Public Works Act.

Patrons—Nolen, Schewel and Trumbo; Delegates: Cranwell, Deeds, Finney, Munford and Putney

Referred to the Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, in 1987 the Congress of the United States, under the Public Works Act, established certain federal trust funds composed of revenues generated through taxes imposed on interstate traffic such as airplane, bus and train transportation; and

WHEREAS, these revenues are intended to be used to aid the states in the development of their highways, waterways and airports; and

WHEREAS, such funds have not, however, entirely been used for these purposes, but have instead been held in reserve by the federal government in order to appear to reduce the federal budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of Interstates 81 and 64 requires upgrading into a six-lane intersection highway through the Blue Ridge region in order to meet the needs of business, industry, and individual citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Congress is hereby memorialized to release to Virginia those federal trust funds which are intended to support construction and improvements related to the state's transportation infrastructure, but which have been withheld by the federal government; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the members of the Virginia delegation to the United States Congress that they may be apprised of the sense of the Virginia General Assembly in this matter.

Appendix D

Letter of Support for Extension Services



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

JOAN H. MUNFORD
205 E. EAKIN STREET
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA 24060
TWELFTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
LABOR AND COMMERCE, CHAIRMAN
EDUCATION
CORPORATIONS, INSURANCE AND BANKING

January 22, 1992

To the Members of the House of Delegates of Virginia
and
The Members of the Senate of Virginia

Re: *Virginia Cooperative Extension*
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Dear Member:

As you are aware, the Virginia Cooperative Extension has provided educational programs, technical assistance and leadership development in support of the aspirations and vocations of Virginia citizens and has been an integral part of rural development for more than 75 years. Virginia Cooperative Extension also brings about the application of technology developed by Virginia's two land grant universities to solve local problems of Virginia's citizenry in a manner unmatched by any other agency and has improved the lives and livelihood of rural and urban citizens with educational programs on agriculture, natural resources, the environment, families, and community related issues. The faculty and staff of Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University have developed programs essential to the economic development and general well-being of the people of the Blue Ridge region of the Commonwealth.

Unfortunately, however, for all citizens of the Commonwealth, the funding has been discontinued for the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Loss of this most vital program will undoubtedly be felt by Virginia's rural and urban residents alike.

Therefore, on behalf of the Blue Ridge Economic Development Commission, we urge and encourage you to restore the funding for the Virginia Cooperative Extension program for the continued benefit of all citizens of the Commonwealth.

Very truly yours,

THE BLUE RIDGE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

By: _____

Joan H. Munford, Chairman

By: _____

Frank W. Nolen, Vice Chairman

Appendix E

Membership of Task Forces

Task Force on
MARKETING STRATEGIES TO
PROMOTE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Membership:

The Honorable Thomas M. Jackson, Jr., *Chairman*
Member, House of Delegates

The Honorable Elliot S. Schewel, *Vice Chairman*
Member, Senate of Virginia

Mr. Steven A. McGraw
Chairman, Roanoke County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Vaden L. "Lee" Cobb
City of Lynchburg

Mr. Charles R. Saul
Appalachian Power Company

Mr. Russ Merritt
Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Stanley Goldsmith
Town Manager, Town of Altavista

Mr. Beverly Fitzpatrick, Jr.
Dominion Bank/Roanoke City Council

Mr. Don Moore
Montgomery County Department of Economic Development

Mr. Ron Secrist
Town Manager, Town of Blacksburg

Mr. Franklyn H. Moreno
C.I.D., Marketing Director
New River Valley Economic Development Alliance

Ms. Lin Chaff
Chaff Public Relations & Advertising

Mr. Joe Morgan
County Administrator, Pulaski County

Task Force on

**REGIONAL DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS, INFORMATION
SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION NEEDS**

Membership:

Dr. Donald P. Lacy, *Chairman*
Associate Professor, Virginia Tech

Mr. Melvin L. "Mel" Mayfield
WDBJ

Mr. Thomas Taylor
Executive Director, Mount Rogers Planning District

Mr. Wayne Strickland
Executive Director, Fifth District Planning District

Mr. Dennis Gragg
Executive Director, Central Virginia Planning District

Mr. Mark Heath
Executive Director, The Regional Partnership of Roanoke Valley, Inc.

Mr. David Rundgren
Executive Director, New River Valley Planning District

Mr. William Strider
Executive Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District

Mr. Robert Dowd
AICP, West Piedmont Planning District

Mr. Mark Miller
Research Associate, Virginia Tech

**Task Force on
EXPANSION AND DIVERSIFICATION OF EXISTING INDUSTRY**

Membership:

The Honorable Frank W. Nolen, *Chairman*
Member, Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Lacey E. Putney, *Vice Chairman*
Member, House of Delegates

Mr. Charles Chandler
President and CEO, Virginia Fiber Corporation

Mr. J. Everette Fauber III
Fauber Architects, P.C.

Mr. Stuart Litvin
Executive Director
Rockbridge Area Economic Development Commission

Mr. Robert Hoover
Plant Manager, Corning, Inc.

Mr. Joe Colvin
President, Inland Motors

Mr. Al Bowman
President, Poly-Scientific

Mr. Wayne Gaabo
J.M. Turner & Company

Mr. Jeff Taylor
Virginia Region 2000

Mr. Skip Hurley
Vice President, Hercules, Incorporated

Mr. William Michael St. John

Task Force on
INITIATIVES TO ENHANCE THE EDUCATION
AND TRAINING OF THE WORKFORCE

Membership:

The Honorable Daniel W. Bird, Jr., *Chairman*
Member, Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Willard R. Finney, *Vice Chairman*
Member, House of Delegates

Dr. Barbara Pendergrass
Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, Virginia Tech

Dr. Charles Downs
President, Virginia Western Community College

Dr. Robert McCracken
Superintendent, Giles County Public Schools

Dr. Frank Tota
Superintendent, Roanoke City Schools

Dr. William Asbury
Superintendent, Pulaski County Schools

Dr. George Nolley
Superintendent, Campbell County Schools

Mr. Joe Doby
Blue Bird East, Division of Blue Bird Body Company

Dr. Jack Lewis
Dean of Business Management, New River Community College

Mr. Thomas Robertson
President, Carilion Health System

Dr. Carl McDaniels
Virginia VIEW

Dr. Rick Williamson
Director of Continuing Education, Wytheville Community College

Dr. Bob Stuart
Economic Development Assistance Center, Virginia Tech

Task Force on
STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND
MARKET LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Membership:

The Honorable J. Granger Macfarlane, *Chairman*
Member, Senate of Virginia

The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., *Vice Chairman*
Member, House of Delegates

Ms. Michelle Wright
Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Brian Wishneff
City of Roanoke

Mr. Randall Arno
County Administrator, Floyd County

Ms. Margaret Ray
Owner, The Oaks

Mr. Peter Kipp
Director, Donaldson Brown Center, Virginia Tech

Mr. Dave Saunders

Dr. Richard Sorenson
Dean, College of Business, Virginia Tech

Ms. Kitty Ward Grady
Director of Public Information, Town of Wytheville

Mr. Lindsey Coleman
Maxwell's Restaurant

Mr. Taylor Cole
Central Fidelity Bank

Mr. Gary Everhardt
Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway

Mr. Bob Hope
Roanoke River Project, Blue Ridge Parkway

Task Force on
PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS,
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Membership:

The Honorable C. Richard Cranwell, *Chairman*
Member, House of Delegates

The Honorable W. Onico Barker, *Vice Chairman*
Member, Senate of Virginia

Mr. Macon C. Sammons, Jr.
County Administrator, Allegheny County

Mr. Junius A. Haskins, Jr.

Mr. James W. Harkness
Dominion Bankshares Corporation

Dr. C.W. Pryor
Vice President & General Manager
Babcock & Wilcock Company, Nuclear Power Division

Dr. James D. McComas
President, Virginia Tech

General John W. Knapp
Superintendent, Virginia Military Institute

Dr. William F. Snyder
President, Wytheville Community College

Dr. John F. Backels
President, Dabney S. Lancaster Community College

Dr. Cynthia Tyson
President, Mary Baldwin College

Mr. Ken Anderson
Anderson & Associates

Mr. W.W. "Skip" Griggs
President, New River Valley Alliance

Mr. David Reemsnyder
CEO, Snyder-Hunt Corporation

Dr. George N. Rainsford
President, Lynchburg College