

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Office of the Comptroller

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December 29, 2004

The Honorable John H. Chichester Chairman, Senate Finance Committee P. O. Box 904 Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404-9040 The Honorable Vincent F. Callahan, Jr. Chairman, House Appropriations Committee P. O. Box 1173
McClean, Virginia 22101

Dear Messrs Chairmen:

Pursuant to § 2.2-1822.1 of the *Code of Virginia*, I hereby report on the status of the Commonwealth's recovery audit program. Since enactment, we have researched of the recovery auditing industry and the recovery audit experience of the federal and state governments and have developed the contract requirements for Virginia's program. We are preparing to issue a Request for Proposal to procure recovery audit services within a matter of days.

Please be aware that our research indicates that the ten percent limit specified in the *Code* on payments to the recovery audit contractor could severely limit our ability to establish an optimal recovery audit program. Our research found the following percentages of recovered amounts paid to auditors pursuant to contracts issued by the federal government and other states:

Federal Government	19.7%	North Carolina	31%
Delaware	25%	Missouri	35-30%*
Arizona	15 & 25%**	Utah	18%
Oregon	35 300/*		

^{*} Sliding scale within this range based on amount recovered

We are concerned that the specific cap will reduce competition among potential bidders for the contract and limit the quality of the recovery audit services we are ultimately able to obtain under the contract to be awarded. Although we will negotiate the most advantageous split of recovery audit proceeds as possible for the Commonwealth, we believe elimination of the cap will allow the competitive procurement process to work towards an optimal balance between service and cost. In the end, if the percentage payout to the contractor is too restrictive, the level of audit and recovery services ultimately

^{** 15%} for disbursement errors, 25% for contract-related errors

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obtained may not meet the industry or the Commonwealth's high standards. Accordingly, legislation will be introduced during the 2005 session of the General Assembly to eliminate the rate cap. If I can provide any additional information, please contact me at 804.225.2109 or david.vonmoll@doa.virginia.gov

Sincerely,

David A. Von Moll

Copy: The Honorable John M. Bennett

Robert Vaughn, Staff Director, House Appropriations

Betsey Daley, Staff Director, Senate Finance