



# **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

*Office of the Governor*

James S. Cheng  
Secretary of Commerce and Trade

January 18, 2011

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Members of the General Assembly  
General Assembly Building  
910 Capitol Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor McDonnell and Members of the General Assembly:

I am pleased to submit the annual report of the Economic Crisis Strike Force regarding its activities and accomplishments. This report is submitted pursuant to § 2.2-205.1 of the Code of Virginia. I serve as chairman of the strike force, and several cabinet members and agency directors are members. The statute requires the Economic Crisis Strike Force to report its activities each year.

Chapters 79 and 80 of the 2006 Acts of Assembly codified the Economic Crisis Strike Force to “respond as needed to economic disasters in Virginia communities by (i) immediately providing a single point of contact for citizens in affected communities to assist with accessing available government and private sector services and resources, (ii) assisting localities in developing short-term and long-term strategies for addressing the economic crisis, and (iii) identifying opportunities for workforce retraining, job creation, and new investment.” Subsection E of the Act defines “economic disaster” as an employment loss of at least 5% during the immediately preceding six-month period, the closure or downsizing of a major regional employer in an economically distressed area, a natural disaster or act of terrorism for which the Governor has declared a state of emergency, or other economic crisis situations, which in the opinion of the Governor adversely affect the welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

During the 2010 calendar year, the Strike Force met twice. The first meeting was in April as American of Martinsville permanently closed leaving 208 workers laid off. The second meeting was in May after the closing of Stanley Furniture and loss of 530 jobs in Henry County.

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The Strike Force stands ready to respond to economic disasters and assist citizens with access to state resources. Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information about this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James S. Cheng', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James S. Cheng

JSC:gjp

cc The Honorable Martin L. Kent  
Chief of Staff

John Broadway  
Commissioner, Virginia Employment Commission

Robert Leber  
Special Advisor to the Governor for Workforce Development