



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

James S. Cheng
Secretary of Commerce and Trade

January 3, 2012

The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of Virginia
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd 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.

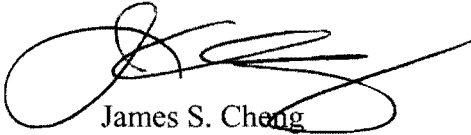
Chapters 79 and 80 of the 2006 Acts of Assembly codified the Economic Crisis Strike Force to “respond as needed to economic disasters in Virginia communities by (i) immediately providing a single point of contact for citizens in affected communities to assist with accessing available government and private 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 2011 calendar year, the Strike Force met once in response to the StarTek closure and layoff of 631 individuals from the Henry County facility.

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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,



James S. Cheng

JSC:gjp

cc The Honorable Martin L. Kent
Chief of Staff

John Broadway
Commissioner, Virginia Employment Commission