

June 3, 2009

Mr. James J. L. Stegmaier
Chesterfield County Administrator
P.O. Box 40
Chesterfield, VA 23832-0040

Dear Mr. Stegmaier:

The Chesterfield Business Council of the Greater Richmond Chamber encourages the county to consider the benefits of utilizing a federal lobbyist.

As Virginia is facing budget shortfalls, it is apparent that the counties and cities in Virginia will not get the financial support they need from the Commonwealth. Our Council believes that Chesterfield County would benefit from having a federal lobbyist, familiar and experienced with the decision makers in Washington DC, working on our community's behalf to advocate for our citizens and work with our federal delegation to ensure that Chesterfield County is considered and receives any federal monies for which it is eligible.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, save and create millions of jobs, and begin addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. This federal money is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression. Although billions of dollars have been set aside to support this initiative, demand will be high for these resources and the funds will only last for a limited period of time. It is imperative that our county has diligent focus on what money is available, how we request it and ultimately how it serves Chesterfield residents.

Other Virginia regions including Virginia Beach and Norfolk have secured federal lobbyists and have considered the investment a great success. We encourage you to discuss this option with county leaders and elected officials and act quickly to secure a Washington representative who will pursue the interests of Chesterfield County residents and businesses.

Sincerely,



Gary Armstrong
Chair, Chesterfield Business Council

