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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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The Honorable Tim Kaine
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond VA 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

With the best interests of the Commonwealth in mind, I write today to request that you establish a bipartisan commission led by former Governors Gerald Baliles and George Allen to examine the state's transportation needs and provide comprehensive recommendations on how to ensure that Virginians stay on the move. This issue is not only important to the economic health of the state from a business standpoint but is a quality of life issue for moms and dads across Virginia. Too many people, particularly in northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, are spending far too much time sitting in traffic and not doing the things they want.

A bipartisan blue ribbon transportation commission could review the needs of all modes of transportation – highways, bridges, airports, transit, ports – and provide a fresh approach at developing new policies that takes the politics out of the picture. Fighting gridlock is not a Democrat or Republican issue; it is a good government issue. And in light of recent reports that the Commonwealth is facing \$2.7 billion in cuts from its highway and construction budget, such a commission is needed now more than ever to ensure that decisions are based on need, not politics.

Such a panel could be modeled after the successful Iraq Study Group, also known as the Baker-Hamilton Commission, which was comprised of individuals from varying backgrounds and ideologies who came together to make a unified decision on recommendations for U.S. policy toward Iraq and its neighbors. Having Gov. Baliles and Gov. Allen serve as co-chairmen of the panel would give it instant credibility. The state's other former governors also should be consulted.

I, and many others with whom I have talked about this idea, firmly believe this commission could provide a road map on how to move forward, and not rely on what the federal government may or may not do to address national infrastructure needs. This approach, if put together in a timely fashion, could allow for you to call a special session after next November's elections to act on the panel's recommendations.

I appreciate your consideration and will be sharing this letter with the leaders on both sides of the aisle of the General Assembly.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

Best Wishes