



**COMMITTEE FOR DULLES POSITION CONCERNING HB 1539
SUBMITTED
IN THE 2011 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

January 20, 2011

Whereas, Delegate James LeMunyon (R-67) of Fairfax and Loudoun County introduced HB 1539 into the 2011 Virginia General Assembly; and,

Whereas HB 1539 provides that no toll imposed or collected for the Dulles Toll Road shall be increased unless and until such increase shall have been approved by a majority vote of the governing body of every county, city and town through which the Dulles Toll Road passes; and,

Whereas this provision of HB 1539 is contrary to the provisions of the Dulles Toll Road Permit and Operating Agreement with respect to the setting of tolls for the Dulles Toll Road that the Commonwealth of Virginia set forth with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (Airports Authority); and,

Whereas revenue from the Dulles Toll Road are designated to finance a substantial portion of the cost for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, which is intended to relieve congestion along the Dulles Toll Road and to serve commuters from Loudoun and Fairfax Counties, and the Town of Herndon; and,

Whereas the provisions of HB 1539 would significantly increase the risk to investors purchasing any Dulles Rail financing bonds, resulting in a lower rating for these bonds and thus higher cost to the Dulles Corridor Rail Project; and,

Whereas this provision may constitute a Terminating Order to the current Dulles Toll Road Permit and Operating Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Airports Authority; and,

Whereas the Dulles Toll Road is currently a major funding source in funding the Dulles Corridor Rail Project Phase 2 extension; and,

Whereas the absence of this financial input could end the viability of the entire Dulles Rail Phase 2 extension project; and,

Whereas the Committee for Dulles has strongly supported the construction of the entire Dulles Rail extension since the concept was first proposed;

Therefore be it resolved that –

1. The Committee for Dulles requests that Delegate LeMunyon withdraw HB 1539 from consideration in the Virginia General Assembly, or that in the absence of this action,
2. The Committee for Dulles will strongly oppose HB 1539 in the Virginia General Assembly with all resources available to it to do so.