



February 8, 2019

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## Unwelcome Spotlight Continues to Shine on Virginia

This was a sad week at the Capitol - the worst that I have seen in 20 years of being at the General Assembly every day. In fact, the past 19 months have done much to damage the reputation of our great state, both here at home and across the nation. Whether it be Charlottesville in 2017 or the embarrassments of the last seven days, these events will resonate for some time. Reconciliation and healing will not have anything to do with three men who may or may not survive self-inflicted wounds or whether they remain in office. It will begin when the overwhelming majority, 94 % of the population, rejects the loudest voices at each end of the spectrum - those whose mission in life is to force 8.3 million people to live under their vision of Virginia. It will begin when the 24/7 news cycle turns away from the loudest voices on the left and right, and instead seeks out those that want to move us forward. It will be easier said than done.

The foundation is still in place. Virginia is the 12th largest state but has the most efficient state legislature in the nation -citizen legislators who come to Richmond for 60 days one year and 45 the next to resolve issues of common concern. We are the only state that allows governors only a single term in office-the wisdom of which has never been more apparent than it is today.

Ultimately the 94% will decide if they like the way politics are being practiced in Virginia or if a course correction is needed. In doing so, they will determine if the past 20 months has been a bump in the road or a sinkhole. We pray it's the former.

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## Sign Legislation

We have been in discussions with VDOT and other concerned parties regarding legislation ([HB1535](#)) that would impose Virginia highway sign owners with new costs relative to inspection, maintenance and possible removal of highway signs. Over the past week several

other impacted parties have also joined in to express their concerns. Several proposals have been floated that would mitigate the disruption and expenses this bill would bring about. These proposals have been forwarded to VDOT who is resisting them and seeking to retain as much of the original bill as possible. This issue arose when a sign at the Potomac Mills Mall buckled in a windstorm last year, and threatened to fall on Interstate 95. We should see some action on the bill in the House next week.

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## **Legislation Which Threatened Plantation Expansion Killed**

We have previously reported on [House bill 1635](#) by Delegate Sam Rasoul of Roanoke that would have effectively banned fossil fuels in the Commonwealth within 20 years. One provision of the legislation would have prevented the expansion of petroleum pipelines, endangering the proposed expansion of the Plantation Pipeline in Southwest Virginia. We testified against this bill demonstrating that it would put at risk this project which was needed to replace some of the gallons lost with the closing of Line 25 last September. In a political maneuver, the legislation actually passed committee but was defeated by the full House of Delegates by a vote of 12-86.

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## **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**

Legislation ([HB 1934](#)) has passed the House that will allow all state agencies to install electric vehicle charging stations on state owned property, make them available to the public, and allow the public to access the chargers for their personal vehicles below cost. The sponsor of the bill has explained that this bill is necessary to end "Christmas tree bills" that each year seek to expand the number of state agencies allowed to have electric chargers. What he does not explain is the \$13 million Christmas gift for new chargers given to the electric industry by the Northam Administration last fall. Nor do the supporters of the bill address the fact that electric vehicles pay only a \$64 fee annually in lieu of fuels taxes, or about a third of what others pay in fuel taxes. Electric vehicles in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia do not pay the local 7.6 cpg fuels tax everyone else does.

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## **OSHA - Compliance period runs February 1- April 30**

*From PMAA*

The 2018 posting cycle for OSHA's workplace injury and illness reporting rule began February 1 and runs through April 30. The OSHA injury and illness recording and posting requirements apply to

most establishments (workplaces) with more than 10 employees. OSHA requires employers to record and post all work-related injuries occurring during the previous calendar year. [Click here](#) to view the Compliance Bulletin.

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## **Last Call for Rooms and Booth Space at SE Petro-Food Expo**

The Southeast Petro-Food Expo (march 6-7) is less than a month away. Room blocks will expire this Monday, February 11 at 3pm. There are still rooms available at the Sheraton Plantation. 843-916-8855

3301 Robert M. Grissom Parkway. Call 866-207-8602 and ask for SE Petro-Food Expo block

If interested in exhibiting, there are still a few booths left or you can serve as a sponsor to gain access to the show. If you call today, you can still get listed in the print directory! Booths left are on Meeting Room Row and sell for \$895 (includes 5 personnel badges). If you can't man a booth but would like to attend send an email [here](#) and you will be provided with sponsorship information.

Here is a link to the 2019 floorplan and a link to reserve a space.

[Floorplan](#)

[Booth Sales](#)

We hope you can be with us and can join us Wednesday after the show in the VPCMA Hospitality Suite, sponsored by our partners.

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## **Welcome New Members**

### **Trivanta**

239 Oregon St.

El Segundo, CA 90245

(310) 989-3689

**Matthew Spear** [mspear@trivanta.com](mailto:mspear@trivanta.com)

**Commercial real estate company that focuses on disposition of convenience stores and gas stations**

**Wawa, Inc.**

260 W. Baltimore Pike

Wawa, PA 19063

(610) 358-8000

**Jeanne Eichinger** - [jeanne.m.eichinger@wawa.com](mailto:jeanne.m.eichinger@wawa.com)

**Convenience/Petroleum Marketer**

**Interstate Fuel LLC** 7102 Fullerton Rd.

Springfield, VA 22150

(703) 455-1900

**Tahir Mahmood** - [interstatefuel@gmail.com](mailto:interstatefuel@gmail.com)

**Petroleum Marketer**