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March 6, 2012

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your diligent work representing the citizens of Virginia during the 2012 session of the Virginia General Assembly. As you know, the state and local partnership that has developed in delivering core government services, such as public education, police, fire, and social services, is vital to the health and well-being of our citizenry. Our combined efforts to meet the demands of at-risk populations, while continuing to make our Commonwealth the most attractive place to do business, have been fiscally challenging.

The General Assembly and local governments have always worked in partnership to fulfill our obligations. Toward that end, I urge you to complete your constitutional responsibility by engaging in a dialogue with your fellow Senators that will lead to passage of a FY 2012–2014 state budget.

The adoption of a state budget is vital to county governments, as we develop local budgets, in order to provide services to our citizens. Without a state budget, a local budget that takes into account local and state revenues and sets local tax rates cannot be done accurately.

While some of Virginia's largest localities may be able to accomplish this without a state fiscal plan, many rural counties must rely on state funding to match local funding. Further, it becomes extremely difficult for counties to advertise and seek citizen input during the local budget development process not knowing expected state revenues. Moreover, the absence of state budget can jeopardize many local contracts such as teacher contracts that must be mailed in May.

If VACo or I can be a resource, please contact us.

Sincerely,



James D. Campbell
VACo Executive Director

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