



*Franklin-Southampton Area
Chamber of Commerce*

2008 *Legislative Priorities*

The Franklin-Southampton Area Chamber of Commerce is strongly committed to regional cooperation and economic development. We work on behalf of our 250 members and their several thousand employees to create the best possible business climate for our community. The following legislative priorities represent our key business concerns for the General Assembly's consideration:

TRANSPORTATION

- **SUPPORT** long-term solutions to meet critical transportation needs throughout the Commonwealth.
- **SUPPORT** funding for the approved Route 58 Overpass in Southampton County.
- **SUPPORT** funding for Route 460 improvements.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **SUPPORT** restoration of funding to the Virginia Small Business Development Center Network, which is vital to area economic development efforts. (*SBDC offers our business community invaluable assistance.*)
- **SUPPORT** funding for Center for Innovative Technology & VA Electronic Commerce Technology Ctr.

EDUCATION

- **SUPPORT** a budget amendment that will provide general funds to support the continued progress toward funding of base budget adequacy guideline amounts for the Virginia Community College System as calculated by the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia.
- **SUPPORT** full state funding of program mandates as prescribed by the Commonwealth to be implemented in the public school system. Adequate funding for existing education responsibilities must be a priority.
- **SUPPORT** seeking a variety of dedicated revenue sources in contrast to general funds that are needed for education, health care and public safety.

ENVIRONMENT

- **SUPPORT** and encourage collaboration between Virginia and US Government representatives to obtain resources that will implement a plan of action to alleviate flooding caused by the Chowan River basin.

HEALTHCARE

- **SUPPORT** greater control of healthcare costs and the investigation of new strategies to provide affordable healthcare to all citizens of the Commonwealth.
- **SUPPORT** caps on medical malpractice liability awards.

TAXATION

- **SUPPORT** a comprehensive tax reform that encourages economic growth and creates a pro-business climate.
- **SUPPORT** equalization of City/County taxing authority.
- **SUPPORT** HB-124 which exempts certified pollution control equipment and facilities, placed in service on or after January 1, 2010, from state and local taxation.