

THE 66 ALLIANCE

PRESS RELEASE



66 ALLIANCE URGES SENATORS AND DELEGATES TO STOP "HIGHWAY ROBBERY"

Contact: Greg Scott
202-297-5123
gscott@66alliance.org
www.66alliance.org

66 Alliance Disappointed that Senators and Delegates – of Both Parties – Have Sided with Corporate Special Interests Over Commuters and Voters

February 8, 2015, Northern Virginia – The 66 Alliance – a grassroots advocacy group of 1,000 Northern Virginians opposed to VDOT's plans for I-66 – today chided members of the Virginia General Assembly for siding with corporate special interests and against families, commuters and voters with respect to VDOT's plans for tolling I-66 inside outside the Beltway.

"A shocking scene of 'highway robbery' is unfolding in the General Assembly this month," stated Greg Scott, founder of the 66 Alliance and a daily 66 commuter. "It is extremely disappointing to see Republican members of the Virginia General Assembly – who campaigned against I-66 tolls in 2015 – back legislation in 2016 to approve those exact same tolls in the House of Delegates and the Senate,"

“And Democrats don’t get a pass on this topic,” continued Scott. “So far, not a single Democrat in the House or Senate has stood up to the Northern Virginia corporate interests on I-66 tolls and voted with the individuals, families and voters who use I-66.” Over the past two weeks, the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance – which has Australian-based private tolling company Transurban on its 2016 Board of Directors – and the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce – which has an employee of Transurban as the Vice Chairman of its Board of Directors in 2016 – both have come out against bills to stop or change VDOT’s plans for I-66.

Transurban has spread over \$548,000 in corporate contributions over members of the General Assembly in recent years, including \$92,000 in 2015 alone. Those facts alone should raise eyebrows (in the media and for voters) across the state after the recent Virginia political scandals involving influence peddling, improper gifts to elected officials, and insider dealing with respect to VDOT tolling projects.

“The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance and the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce – and their members – need to remember that it takes consumers with money in their pockets – and a positive impression of a business -- to use their services and buy their products,” Scott said. “The Alliance’s members applaud the bi-partisan group of legislators – Delegates Bulova, LeMunyon, Minchew, Marshall and Webert in the House of Delegates and Senators Black, Petersen, Vogel and Wexton in the Senate – who continue to stand up to these corporate lobbyists and support commuters and voters over for-profit tolling companies and VDOT bureaucrats.”

“The 66 Alliance urges all General Assembly members – House and Senate, Democrat or Republican -- to stand up to the corporate interests seeking to shape tolling policy in our Commonwealth,” Scott concluded. “Elected officials should back the interests of individuals, families, commuters and voters over the special interests that are pushing this ‘highway robbery’ tolling policy in the 2016 General Assembly.”

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