



66 Alliance | | gscott@66alliance.org | <http://66alliance.org>

Good morning, 66 Alliance Members!

Bi-Partisan Joint Senate Letter -- A Job Well Done!

If anyone had any doubt that the "business model" on which the 66 Alliance has been built -- that elected officials will listen to commuters and voters on issues relating to VDOT's plans for 66 -- then those doubts have been erased completely over the past two weeks!

Based on the grassroots lobbying of individual Alliance members -- you! -- we have secured 8 signatures on a joint Senate letter to Governor McAuliffe to extend the CFV sunset past 1/1/17 and to examine a new CFV program in 2017. Below is a list of the Senators who have agreed to sign the letter.

Here is this week's "ask" from me -- just as you urged these Senators to sign the letter over the past several weeks, now let's recognize that they are doing so with some form of the e-mail below. Feel free to personalize your e-mail, but please do send one -- the Senators need to know that their constituents recognize the support they are giving to the goals of the 66 Alliance! In advance, thanks for doing!

Of our targets, Senator Marsden is going to see a separate letter (not ideal, but at least is he voicing an opinion on the issue). Apart from Marsden, only Senators Howell, Saslaw and Barker from the Northern Virginia Senate delegate did not signal their willingness to sign the letter. Howell's stance is puzzling, since I had several good conversations with her on the subject earlier this year and will be following up with her office. My impression is that Senator Saslaw, as the lead D in the Senate, is backing VDOT and the governor, and I don't think Senator Barker cares that much about the issue given his district only skims by the 66 corridor.

- **Senators to Thank:**
 - **Senator Black (R-Loudoun/Prince William) -- E-Mail Address:**

district13@senate.virginia.gov -- [Map](#) of Senate District 13;

- Senator Ebbin (D-Alexandria/Arlington) -- E-Mail Address: district30@senate.virginia.gov -- [Map](#) of Senate District 30;
- Senator Favola (D-Arlington/Fairfax) -- E-Mail Address: district31@senate.virginia.gov -- [Map](#) of Senate District 31;
- Senator McPike (D-Manassas City/Prince William) -- E-Mail Address: district29@senate.virginia.gov -- [Map](#) of Senate District 29;
- Senator Petersen (D-Fairfax City/Fairfax) -- E-Mail Address: district34@senate.virginia.gov -- [Map](#) of Senate District 34;
- Senator Surovell (D-(Fairfax/Prince William) -- E-Mail Address: district36@senate.virginia.gov -- [Map](#) of Senate District 36;
- Senator Wexton (D-Fairfax/Loudoun) -- E-Mail Address: district33@senate.virginia.gov -- [Map](#) of Senate District 33;
- Senator Vogel (R-Fauquier/Frederick/Clarke) -- E-Mail Address: district27@senate.virginia.gov -- [Map](#) of Senate District 27.

Please cut, paste, personalize and send a version of the following e-mail to one or more of these legislators if you live or work in their districts (check out the maps to make sure!):

"Dear Senator _____:

Thank you very much for agreeing to add your name to the joint, bi-partisan letter to Governor McAuliffe on the extension of the CFV program on I-66. As a member of the 66 Alliance, as well as a constituent and voter in your district, I appreciate your strong support on this important issue. You can be sure that I will spread the word to my neighbors and friends that we are represented by a responsive legislator in Richmond who is in touch with the issues of importance to your constituents. Again, thank you for your support.

Your Name and Address"

Progress on Joint, Bi-Partisan Letter from House of Delegates

While our attention has been focused on the Senate letter for the last couple of weeks, we have made progress on a similar letter from members of the House of Delegates. Delegates Rich Anderson (R-Woodbridge) and Kathleen Murphy (D-Fairfax/Loudoun) have agreed to take the lead on this companion letter.

Stay tuned for next week's 66 Alliance Weekly Report where I'll have a list of likely Delegates for Alliance members to contact. I'll be counting on you once again to promote the Alliance's message to these legislators, and I expect that we will have the same success in getting a group of bi-partisan House members to sign this new letter that we had in the Senate.

Meeting with VDOT

At the request of Senator Favola, I had a 60 minute meeting with VDOT Assistant Secretary Nick Donohue this week. Senator Favola hoped that such a meeting might lead to finding common ground between the 66 Alliance and VDOT so that a showdown in the General Assembly would not be necessary.

Unfortunately, despite a wide-ranging, spirited and very frank discussion, I would summarize the meeting as providing little hope that the Alliance and VDOT would agree on anything in the coming months. Some quite interesting tidbits did emerge from the meeting:

- Some Alliance members have questioned when -- what exact date -- VDOT plans to end the CFV program on 66 because there has not been a great deal of fanfare about the sunset date. Donohue clarified to me that VDOT plans for the CFV program on 66 to sunset when the inside the Beltway tolling program goes live, which may not be until the Spring of 2017. So, while I had assumed that the program would sunset on 1/1/17, Donohue said the sunset date has not been set and will coincide with when VDOT turns on the tolling machines inside the Beltway -- sometime in the second quarter of 2017. Interestingly, this revised estimate may provide the General Assembly with the opportunity to mandate that VDOT extend the CFV program on 66, as the G.A. goes into session in January 2017. Lots of ground to plow between now and then, but at least the window for action could be there if the governor does not respond to these letters.**
- VDOT does not oppose -- in a vacuum -- continuing the CFV program on I-66 until 2019 or 2020, but it doesn't want to send a negative signal to the P3 partners bidding this year on building the HOT lanes outside the Beltway that the CFV program might continue past 2020 and therefore cost these tolling companies money. There was no explanation of why VDOT extended HOV-2, which might send the same signal, and not CFVs. Suffice it to say that there is no longer any legal impediment to VDOT extending the CFV program through 2020 other than VDOT's desire to create a desirable bidding landscape for Transurban and others.**
- Extending the CFV program past 2017 would not present any type of budget problem for VDOT, despite comments VDOT has made to state legislators. Exempting CFVs from tolls would be absorbed by the Virginia Toll Facilities Revolving Account, which has a balance in excess**

of \$150 million. So, again, VDOT just doesn't want to do it.

Post Story on I-66 Changes -- Not sure if everyone saw it, but the *Post* ran a story last week on coming inside the Beltway 66 changes. The [story](#) confirms that the CFV program will end when the tolls start.

Thanks to Christy Schatz, David Moscovitz and Chris Ambrose (again!!) for making financial contributions to the Alliance over the past week. Your contributions keep the Alliance's "back office" humming along and help pay my out of pocket expenses as I head to Alliance meetings. If you want to support the Alliance financially, please go to our website (www.66alliance.org) and click on the "Support the Alliance" button.

Thanks to all for your efforts and support! We are making progress and your active involvement will help us to make more! Greg

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