



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

January 17, 2013

The Honorable Rob Wittman
U.S. House of Representatives
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Wittman:

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Rob", written over the name "Wittman" in the salutation.

Congratulations on the start of the 113th Congress and your appointment as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Readiness within the House Armed Services Committee and to the Natural Resources Committee. Your commitment to the constituents of the 1st district and your leadership on these committees will greatly benefit the Commonwealth and our entire nation.

The new year presents a number of tough challenges for Congress as well as states. Economic stability, the prioritization of spending, the out of control debt, and the responsibility to provide services to those most in need are concerns shared by both Congressional and state leaders of both parties. Of course, how the new March deadline for federal fiscal spending cuts will impact the Commonwealth's budget and our economy remains a significant concern. Timing is also an issue since your deadline comes after the state legislative session has ended, making it difficult for state leaders to make educated budget decisions.

I believe that these challenges present a great opportunity to work together. If given additional flexibilities, states will be eager to create efficiencies and achieve results that work best for their citizens. We have already seen some results in Virginia when given more state control, especially in workforce development. In addition, states are ready to work with the federal government to develop reforms that produce savings for both the federal government and states.

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how we can work together, and have scheduled a meeting with the Congressional delegation in March. Your scheduler has been asked to hold the time and date open, and I hope you will be able to attend. I look forward to a robust discussion of the issues and how we can address them together.

Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "McDonnell", written over the name "Robert F. McDonnell" in the signature block.

Robert F. McDonnell

RFM/kc

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