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Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2025

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Kirsten Wiard-Bauer
Office of Program Management – Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Wiard-Bauer,

I write today in support of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's (DRPT) grant proposal to the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program to assist with the Virginia Rural Transit Asset Management & Modernization Program.

DRPT has a vision of fostering a connected Commonwealth with an integrated multimodal network that serves every person, every business, and every need. This funding will further their goal by supporting the replacement of eight light-duty, medium-sized rural transit buses that have surpassed their useful mileage and age limits, helping Bay Transit maintain a state of good repair for Virginia's critical transit assets in my district. With seven percent of households in certain parts of rural Virginia not owning a car, the replacement of these vehicles is a vital investment in mobility, especially for communities and families who depend on public transportation for daily life. Replacing the current fleet will significantly enhance safety, efficiency, and service quality, meeting the significant need for transportation in rural communities while reducing long-term costs and environmental impacts.

I ask that you give this proposal every appropriate consideration and thank you for supporting the rural transportation needs of the constituents in Virginia's First Congressional District.

Respectfully,

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Robert J. Wittman Member of Congress