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The Honorable Kirk Cox
Speaker
Virginia House of Delegates
P.O. Box 406
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Speaker Cox,

I write today in support of Senate Bill 1749, a bill to create the Robert O. Norris Bridge & Statewide Special Structure Fund.

The Norris Bridge is now in its seventh decade of operation. At its completion, the bridge serviced an average of 1,000 vehicles per day. Now, according to surveys, the bridge services 8,208 vehicles on an average weekday. Overtime, faced with the wear and tear of the elements along with the increase in traffic, the replacement of the Norris Bridge has not only become a necessity for the transportation of commerce within the region, but also the safety of the motorists who travel it.

In a 2017 study, conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), VDOT identified a complete bridge replacement on a new upstream alignment as the least impactful and least costly alternative towards the life of the Norris Bridge. I believe Senate Bill 1749, introduced by Senator Ryan McDougle, applies a commonsense approach towards providing a sustainable funding stream for the replacement of important rural transportation structures, particularly the Norris Bridge.

I applaud Sen. McDougle for introducing this innovative legislation that will vastly improve the traffic flow across the bridge and the long-term economic sustainability of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

Cc: Delegate David E. Yancey, Chair, Transportation Committee



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