



**Virginia's Region 2000
Local Government Council**
828 Main Street, 12th Floor
Lynchburg, VA 24504
(434) 845 – 3491
localgovernmentcouncil.org

December 18, 2014

*Senators and Delegates of the
Virginia General Assembly*

Re: 2015 Legislative Priorities

Dear Senator/Delegate;

The Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council serves as the Planning District Commission for Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell Counties and the City of Lynchburg.

At our meeting on November 20th, 2014, the Council approved the following as our legislative priorities for the 2015 General Assembly session.

- **Local Taxing Authority**
The Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council supports legislation that maintains local taxing authority over local revenue sources, and opposes legislation at the state or federal levels that would reduce or eliminate control over local revenue streams. Taxation issues should be addressed by the governing bodies at the level that they are assessed: federal, state or local.
- **Increased state funding for Planning District Commissions**
Planning District Commissions have proven to be effective and efficient methods of service delivery for the Commonwealth and localities. The Local Government Council supports an additional \$200,000 in each year of the biennium for planning district commission to support additional work on regional cooperation and support for state initiatives.
- **Substance Abuse Treatment**
Restore state funding for substance abuse treatment programs. Such funding could be provided to Community Service Boards, programs such as "The Healing Place" or other pilot programs.

➤ **Maintenance of Dams Regulations**

The Local Government Council supports the efforts of VACo and area local governments to vigilantly oppose excessive agency rules and regulations regarding the maintenance of Virginia's dams and to support reasonable and cost-effective regulations on the maintenance of existing dams.

The Council appreciates your continued service to the Commonwealth and wishes you success in the upcoming session. If I am able to be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

/s:/ Gary Christie

Gary Christie
Executive Director

GFC/mdp