



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

July 20, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Invited Member of Workgroup

FROM: The Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr., Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee 
The Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Co-Chairman, Senate Finance Committee 
The Honorable S. Chris Jones, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee 

RE: Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board and Fund (GO Virginia) Workgroup

During the 2016 General Assembly session, legislation was passed creating the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board and Fund to support regional collaboration to diversify the state's economy. While the legislation provides some details on how to prioritize uses of the monies in the Fund and how to organize the various regional councils which will solicit projects and make funding recommendations, the legislation also directs the chairs of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee to create a workgroup to develop the Fund guidelines and procedures for adoption by the Board.

Because of the need to align GO Virginia with many existing state initiatives, and the urgency to address Virginia's economic challenges, the legislation requires that the workgroup include representatives of a broad range of interested parties who impact economic development, workforce training, community planning and development, education, and the business community. Therefore, we are requesting your service on this workgroup to move the GO Virginia implementation effort forward.

Over the past month, our staff directors have been meeting with representatives of the Governor's policy team and Cabinet, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Planning and Budget, and GO Virginia to outline the scope of the workgroup's tasks as required by the enabling legislation and to prioritize its efforts. The recommended guidelines are to be provided to the Board no later than October 15, 2016, so time is of the essence to begin work on their development.

If you are willing to serve on the workgroup, please contact Liz Rafferty at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development at 804-371-7000. If you are unable to serve, you may suggest an alternate who will represent your organization. Once we hear back from all who were invited to serve on the workgroup, we expect the first meeting to occur in mid-August.

Thank you for your interest in this important effort to advance Virginia's economy. For your reference, a link to the 2016 GO Virginia legislation is available [here](#).