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**J. Randy Forbes**  
**United States Congress**

**4th District, Virginia**

July 24, 2012

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The Honorable Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor of Virginia  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor McDonnell,

In 2010, I wrote to you to express my concerns with the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) pursuit of tolling stations along Interstate Route 95 (I-95) in Southside Virginia (previous letter enclosed). My position remains unchanged as I write to you once again to express my strong opposition to VDOT's Interstate 95 Corridor Improvement Program.

It is my understanding that VDOT is preparing to file its final application with the Federal Highway Administration in order to move forward with the installation of tolling stations along I-95. While VDOT continues to tout the benefits of its tolling proposal, as a means of meeting demands for additional highway funding, I remain deeply concerned that tolling stations being placed in Southside Virginia will disproportionately burden the citizens of a region unable to shoulder additional economic challenges.

Many of these communities surrounding the proposed placement of the toll facility are already identified by the Commonwealth of Virginia as "economically stressed." Adding costly new tolls will exacerbate this situation by discouraging economic growth, increasing costs for area businesses, and making everyday travel more expensive for families. Under initial estimates, VDOT's proposal will mean a new cost of \$4 for cars and \$12 for large trucks each time that a vehicle passes through a gantry. This translates into a new cost of \$8 for a family driving from Emporia to Richmond each time they make the trip. I believe it is unacceptable to ask these economically challenged communities to take on an unfair and higher share of the cost of maintaining highways used by all Virginians.

To date, the local governments of the City of Emporia, Greensville County, and Sussex County have each adopted resolutions of opposition to VDOT's Corridor Improvement Program for I-95. Indicative of the impact these localities fear, the City of Emporia's resolution states clearly that "Emporia's population consists of many low to moderate income families who frequently travel I-95 for work and medical related reasons. The payment of tolls would be an undue financial burden on the low to moderate income families living in the area." Copies of each resolution of opposition have been included for your reference and consideration.

I understand the financial challenges facing the Commonwealth in meeting its transportation needs are great. However, placing an unfair financial burden on these vulnerable communities would be economically devastating. It is my hope that you will halt VDOT's current I-95 Corridor Improvement Program in order to explore other options for meeting Virginia's transportation resource needs.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Randy Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

J. RANDY FORBES  
Member of Congress