



THE VOICE of BUSINESS

October 29, 2020

The Honorable Shannon Valentine  
Secretary of Transportation  
P.O. Box 1475  
Richmond, VA 23218

RE: 495 Express Lanes Northern Extension Project

Dear Secretary Valentine:

On behalf of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, I urge you to support the 495 NEXT project to extend the 495 Express Lanes to the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce is the largest business advocacy organization in the Commonwealth, with more than 26,000 members. The Chamber is a non-partisan, business advocacy organization that works in the legislative, regulatory, and political arenas to act as the catalyst for positive change in all areas of economic development and competitiveness for Virginia. In order to maintain our position as a top business destination we must continue to invest in developing a 21st century transportation network aimed at improving our mobility.

That 21st century transportation network requires both public sector investments as well as leveraging private sector investment and innovation. That is why we strongly support the 495 NEXT project that will extend the 495 Express Lanes to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. 495 NEXT will create more than 6,000 jobs and inject more than \$800 million in economic activity into the region. Most importantly, it will help reduce congestion in the region and provide additional travel choices for commuters and travelers.

The 495 NEXT extension will aid the Commonwealth in more efficiently moving people and goods, improve safety and improve the quality of life for all travelers, and lay the groundwork for long term economic growth. We strongly support this project.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry E. DuVal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barry E. DuVal  
President and CEO