

Senator Houck Reports From Richmond
Week of June 26, 2006

To conclude the discussion of the budget negotiations, this weekly report will examine the non-state agencies portion of the budget. Examples of non-state agencies are museums, tourist attractions, historic preservation societies, and community organizations.

Through my efforts as a member of the Budget Committee, several non-state agencies in the 17th District receive funding in the budget for their projects. They include:

- Friends of Wilderness Battlefield: \$ 12,500
- James Madison Museum: \$ 40,000
- The Louisa Town Hall and Arts Center: \$ 50,000
- Mineral Historic Foundation: \$ 10,000
- The Montpelier Foundation: \$200,000
- The Museum of Culpeper History: \$ 40,000

On Wednesday June 28th, the General Assembly will return to Richmond to consider line item vetoes and amendments to the budget made by Governor Kaine. Once agreed upon, the budget work will be completed three days before the deadline. With the completion of the budget, it is now time for the General Assembly to have a serious discussion about transportation.

It is expected that the General Assembly will return to Richmond this fall to discuss transportation. Since the start of the session on January 11th, the Senate passed numerous pieces of legislation regarding transportation funding. Each of these bills were overwhelmingly supported by the Senate, Democrats and Republicans alike, and rejected without debate by the House leadership. In its last effort, the Senate proposed a dedicated statewide source of transportation dollars accompanied by several bills initiating regional authorities in Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, and the Shenandoah Valley. Unfortunately, the House Committee on Finance tabled these bills until later this summer.

It is my hope that this legislation will initiate our discussions this fall. Between now and then, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.