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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Business Coalition Leadership Urges Congressman Forbes To Help with Federal Funding for Wastewater Treatment Project

The Virginia Manufacturers Association, Hopewell-Prince George Chamber of Commerce and Hopewell Manufacturers Association has urged U.S. Rep. Randy Forbes (R-VA) to seek federal funding assistance to help fund upgrades to the Hopewell Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

During a meeting with the congressman, representatives of the business groups asked for Forbes' support to get federal funding to help pay the \$35 million in fund required upgrades to the wastewater treatment facility that serves residents and industry in the City of Hopewell, as well as a portion of Prince George County and Fort Lee

During the meeting, Forbes acknowledged the challenges of obtaining federal assistance during the current difficult economic times, but recognized the importance of supporting good jobs and infrastructure in the Hopewell region.



Becky McDonough, executive vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, said, "We have had an environmental educational alliance in the form of the Hopewell Community and Industry Partnership since 1991. We are used to working together as environmental stewards." The last project was environmental in nature and served to educate the public that storm drains feed directly to the river.

"The Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, a one of a kind public/private partnership, is an important resource for the area," said Mark Haley, director Hopewell Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. "Securing funding for these upgrades is critical."

Humberto Caldelas, director, integrated supply chain program management for Honeywell Specialty Materials, said Honeywell, as a major employer with two large manufacturing facilities

in the region, believes federal funding is needed for such an important project. Caldelas recently spent two days in Washington, D.C. meeting with elected officials seeking funding for the project.

Other regional leaders participating in the meeting were Virginia Deputy Secretary for Rural Development Mary Rae Carter, Delegate Riley Ingram, Hopewell Mayor Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Fort Lee Deputy Garrison Commander Melissa McGowan, Fort Lee Directorate of Public Works Director Fred Carter and Crater Planning District Commission Executive Director Denny Morris.

The coalition also announced it has launched its new website in the effort, which can be found at <http://greaterhopewellcoalition.org/home>.

The Hopewell Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility is a public asset and has a commission that represents the customer base. The City of Hopewell is represented by City Councilman Gerald Stokes. RockTenn, Honeywell, Ashland Aqualon, and Virginia American Water Company are also represented on the commission.