CITY OF HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

1916 100 2016

HOPEWELL

VIRGINIA

2017 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

CITY OF HOPEWELL 2017 LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

UNITED STATES SENATE

The Honorable Mark Warner

The Honorable Tim Kaine

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Honorable Donald A. McEachin, (elect), 4TH Congressional District

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

The Honorable Rosalyn R. Dance

16th Senatorial District (Petersburg; Part of Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Hopewell and Prince George)

VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The Honorable Riley E. Ingram

62nd District (Part of Chesterfield, Henrico, Prince George and Hopewell)

The Honorable Lashrecse D. Aird

63rd District (Part of the Cities of Hopewell and Petersburg)

HOPEWELL CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Honorable Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor, Ward #6

The Honorable Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Vice Mayor, Ward #1

The Honorable Arlene Holloway, Ward #2

The Honorable Anthony Zevgolis, Legislative Committee, Ward #3

The Honorable Jasmine E. Gore, Legislative Committee, Ward #4

The Honorable Wayne Walton, Ward #5

The Honorable Jackie Shornak, Ward #7

HOPEWELL CITY ADMINISTRATION

Mark Haley, City Manager and Legislative Committee

Stefan Calos, City Attorney and Legislative Committee

Herbert H. Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs and Legislative Committee/Liaison

CITY OF HOPEWELL

Hopewell, Virginia 23860

AGENDA

PHONE: 541-2249
FAX: 541-2248

SPECIAL MEETING

CITY COUNCIL

Brenda S. Pelham, Mayor, Ward #6
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Vice Mayor, Ward #1
Arlene Holloway, Councilor, Ward #2
Anthony J. Zevgolis, Councilor, Ward #3
Jasmine E. Gore, Councilor, Ward #4
K. Wayne Walton, Councilor, Ward #5
Jackie M. Shornak, Councilor, Ward #7

e-mail: info@hopewellva.gov
rkearney@hopewellva.gov
www.hopewellva.gov

Mark A. Haley, City Manager
Stefan M. Calos, City Attorney
Ross A. Kearney, III, City Clerk

Date: November 29, 2016 **MUNICIPAL BUILDING** **TIME: Special Meeting/ Public Hearing 6:30 p.m.**

Hopewell City Council Special Meeting
OPEN MEETING

6:30 p.m. Call to Order, roll call, and welcome to visitors.

Prayer by Jeff Butler, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Motion: To Amend/Adopt Agenda

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Each person addressing the Council shall approach the microphone, give name and limit comments to three (3) minutes or less. No person shall be permitted to address Council a second time until all others have been heard once, and no one shall speak more than twice on any subject in any one meeting. All remarks shall be addressed to Council as a body and not to any member thereof. No person other than the Council and the person having the floor shall enter into any discussion either directly or through a member of the Council without permission of the presiding officer. No question shall be asked except through the presiding officer (see Council Rule 405).

PH-1. Amend the City Charter Chapter XXV(A.1) (Hopewell Water Renewal Commission), including as to membership of the commission and determination by City Council of capital contributions.

Citizen Comments

Motion: Resolve to Request that the General Assembly Amend Chapter XXV (A.1), Sec. 1 and Sec. 3, of the City Charter

Roll Call

PROPOSED 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE PRIORTIES FOR THE CITY OF HOPEWELL

1. Full funding for state aid to local police department (HB599) to assist with fighting crime and criminal activity.

2. Full funding for K-12 education, as it is essential that the state meet its constitutional responsibility, including full funding of all state mandates from the General Assembly, as updated to the Standards of Quality (SOQ) to reflect actual education costs.

3. Funding for high-poverty school districts, which is critical to (1) retaining qualified teachers, (2) providing wraparound services to support interagency programing for children and parents living in poverty (3) supporting literacy initiatives, and (4) supporting professional development activities for teachers and administrators.

4. Continued funding of the Water Quality Improvement Fund, to help municipalities further reduce nutrient discharges into state waters.

5. Virginia Recreation and Parks 2017 Legislative Priorities, which include state parks acquisition and development, youth health and safety, childhood obesity prevention, safe athletic programs, bicycle safety, trails, pathways and green corridors, senior games, and livable communities.

6. Virginia First Cities Proposed 2017 Community Wealth Building Policy Initiatives.

7. Virginia Municipal League 2017 Legislative Program

8. H.R. 1621— Federal Legislation introduced by Congressman Randy Forbes, 4th Congressional District, pertaining to the City of Hopewell, Aderholt-Hunter House and the National Park Service.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Support and endorse priorities 1-8, above

Motion: To Support and Endorse the Proposed 2017 General Assembly Legislative Priorities for the City of Hopewell

Roll Call

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To Adjourn

CITY OF HOPEWELL * 300 N. MAIN ST. * HOPEWELL, VA 23860

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

HOPEWELL CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

The Hopewell City Council will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 6:30 PM in City Council Chambers, 300 N. Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia, regarding proposed amendments to the city's charter. This notice is in accordance with Hopewell City Code Sec. 2-27 (Special meetings) and Rule 302 (Special Meetings) of the Rules of City Council.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
300 N MAIN STREET
HOPEWELL, VA 23860

Ronnieye Arrington, Acting **City Clerk**

Inquiries: 541-2408

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF HOPEWELL

The Hopewell City Council will hold a public hearing, in accordance with Virginia Code section 15.2-202, on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 6:30 PM in City Council Chambers, 300 N. Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia, to amend the following sections of Chapter XXV (A.1) (Hopewell Water Renewal Commission) of the city's charter:

> **Sec. 1 (Created; general function; composition; appointment and terms of members), to change the number of commission members from eight total and five who are submitted by manufacturers, to unspecified numbers; add that each manufacturer shall provide a capital contribution in an amount determined by the city council; add that a member of city council, the city manager, and the city attorney shall be members of the commission; and, remove the provision for manufacturers not involved in planning assistance to nominate members of the commission.**
>
> **Sec. 3 (Powers and duties), to state that the commission shall help and assist in the maintenance and expansion of the facility.**

The hearing shall be open to the public. City council shall permit persons an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be set by city council.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

MEETING NOTICE
November 10, 2016

Municipal Building
300 N Main Street
2nd Floor Conference Room
Hopewell, Virginia 23860

Legislative Committee

The City of Hopewell Legislative Committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. to review legislative requests and develop the City's 2017 DRAFT legislative priorities.

Please contact Herbert Bragg, the Director, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs at (804) 541-2270 if there are any questions.

Interoffice Memorandum From the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Affairs

To: The Honorable City Council and Legislative Committee

From: Herbert Bragg, Director, Intergovernmental & Public Affairs/Legislative Liaison

Thru: Mark Haley, City Manager

Date: November 14, 2016

Re: Summary Listing of Proposed 2017 General Assembly Legislative Priorities

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Please find attached a summary listing of the Proposed 2017 General Assembly Legislative Priorities for the City of Hopewell as suggested by individual Council members, Hopewell Schools, City staff as well as Virginia First Cities and the Virginia Municipal League. Item 1 is a request to amend the City Charter from the Hopewell Water Renewal Commission.

A public hearing was held on November 29, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in City Council chambers. The remaining items 2-8 does not require a public hearing and are supporting position statements regarding legislative initiatives of the Virginia First Cities Coalition, the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Recreation and Park Service. Item number 9-Federal Legislation (H.R. 1621 introduced by Congressman Randy Forbes in the 114th Congress) pertaining to the status of the City of Hopewell, Aderholt-Hunter House and the National Park Service. Legislation referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

1. The City of Hopewell REQUESTS that the City charter be Amended to clarify Commission membership of the Hopewell Water Renewal Commission and to delete the requirement for new manufacturers to pay 4% of the original cost of the facility and to incorporate language that allows City Council to determine the appropriate payment amount. **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

2. The City of Hopewell SUPPORTS full funding for state aid to Local Police Department (HB599) to assist with fighting crime and criminal activity. **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

3. The City of Hopewell SUPPORTS full funding for K-12 education. It is essential that the state meet its constitutional responsibility to adequately fund K-12 education, including full funding of all state mandates from the General Assembly and updated to the Standards of Quality (SOQ) to reflect actual education costs. **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

4. The City of Hopewell SUPPORTS funding for high poverty school districts. Funding is critical to the following: (1) retaining qualified teachers (2) funding for wraparound services to support interagency programing for children and parents of poverty (3) funding to support literacy initiatives and (4) funding to support professional development activities for teachers and administrators in high poverty districts. **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

5. The City of Hopewell SUPPORTS continued funding of the Water Quality Improvement Fund to help municipalities further reduce nutrient discharges into State Waters. **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

6. The City of Hopewell SUPPORTS the Virginia Recreation and Park Service 2017 Legislative Priorities. These priorities include the following: Virginia state parks, park acquisition and development, youth health and safety, improving childhood obesity, safe athletic programs, bicycle safety, trails, pathways and green corridors, senior games and livable communities. **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

7. The City of Hopewell SUPPORTS and endorse the Virginia First Cities Proposed 2017 Community Wealth Building Policy Initiatives (see attached proposed agenda). **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

8. The City of Hopewell SUPPORTS and endorse the Virginia Municipal League 2017 Legislative Program (see attached program). **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

9. The City of Hopewell SUPPORTS H.R. 1621- Federal Legislation introduced by Congressman Randy Forbes, 4th Congressional District pertaining to the City of Hopewell, Aderholt-Hunter House and the National Park Service (see attached background information and current status). Resolution passed by Hopewell City Council.

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MAH/hb
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City of Hopewell 2017 Legislative Requests

RESOLUTION

A resolution in support of a request that the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia to enact legislation amending the charter of the city of Hopewell, Virginia, to change the number of members of the Hopewell Water Renewal Commission from eight total and five who are submitted by manufacturers, to unspecified numbers; add that each manufacturer shall provide a capital contribution in an amount determined by the city council; add that a member of the city council, the city manager, and the city attorney shall be members of the commission; and, state that the commission shall help and assist in the maintenance and expansion of the facility.

WHEREAS, § 1 of Chapter 454 of the Acts of Assembly of 1975, was reenacted effective July 1, 2016, to amend the Hopewell, Virginia charter to change the name of the entity which assists in the oversight of the wastewater treatment facility serving major industries within the city and the residential population in the vicinity, to the "Hopewell Water Renewal Commission"; and

WHEREAS, Chapter XXV(A.1) (Hopewell Water Renewal Commission), Sec. 1 (Created; general function composition; appointment and terms of members) of the charter (1) sets the total number of commission members at eight with five members nominated by manufacturers; (2) sets a new nominating manufacturer's contribution at four per centum or more of the original capital cost of the facility; and (3) is silent as to the identity of the non-manufacturer-nominated members of the commission, while the bylaws of the commission state that a member of city council, the city manager, and the city attorney shall be members of the commission;

WHEREAS, the city council proposes that Chapter XXV(A.1), Sec. 1 of the charter be amended to (a) not specify the number of members of the commission, to provide flexibility; (b) provide that a manufacturer's capital contribution be an amount determined by the city council, because the facility has been fully depreciated; and (c) provide that a member of city council, the city manager, and the city attorney shall be members of the commission;

WHEREAS, Chapter XXV (A.1), Sec. 3 (Powers and duties) of the charter requires planning and construction of the facility as duties of the commission;

WHEREAS, the city council proposes that Chapter XXV (A.1), Sec. 3 of the charter be amended to require maintenance and expansion of the now-constructed facility; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, city council held a public hearing under Virginia Code § 15.2-202 on the proposed charter amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the council of the city of Hopewell, Virginia, that the below-proposed amendments to Chapter XXV (A.1) of the city charter be approved and transmitted to the Virginia General Assembly forthwith, and that the General Assembly and the representatives of the city therein be requested to approve the charter amendments at the next succeeding session of the General Assembly.

* * *

CHAPTER XXV (A.1). HOPEWELL WATER RENEWAL COMMISSION

Sec. 1. Created; general function; composition; appointment and terms of members.

There shall be a regional wastewater treatment facility commission which shall be known as the Hopewell Water Renewal Commission (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the "commission"), which shall act on behalf of the city of Hopewell as hereinafter provided, with respect to a regional wastewater treatment facility owned by the city of Hopewell to provide treatment for disposal of sanitary and industrial waste from the city of Hopewell and vicinity. The commission shall consist of members who need not be residents of the city and who shall be appointed by a majority of city council. Members shall be from nominees submitted by manufacturers (each nominating with respect to one membership) which provide assistance in the planning and financing for the regional wastewater treatment facility or which are or will be users of said facility. Each manufacturer shall provide a capital contribution in an amount determined by the city council. Additional members shall be a city councilor, the city manager, and the city attorney. Any vacancy in the appointive membership of the commission, however occurring, shall be promptly filled by the city council for the unexpired term in the same manner and from the same source as the original appointment to the vacated position.

(Acts 1975, Ch. 454, § 1; Acts 1979, Ch. 317, § 1; Acts 2016, Chs. 154, 313)

* * *

Sec. 3. Powers and duties.

The commission shall help and assist in the maintenance and expansion of the facility. The commission shall exercise full authority and responsibility in the operation, maintenance, improvement and repair of the facility, subject, however, to overrule of any of its actions by the city council. The commission shall have such further duties as the city council may from time to time direct.

(Acts 1975, Ch. 454, § 1)

I, **Ross A. Kearney, III**, City Clerk of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, do certify the foregoing Resolution to Resolve to Request that the General Assembly Amend Chapter XXV (A.1), Sec. 1 and Sec. 3, of the City Charter was adopted by the City Council on November 29, 2016.

Given under my hand and the Corporate Seal of the City of Hopewell, Virginia this 30th day of November 2016.

Ross A. Kearney III. City Clerk

City of Hopewell, Virginia Proposed Charter Amendments

2017 General Assembly Talking Points

1. In 1975, the General Assembly amended the City of Hopewell, Virginia charter to include the Hopewell Water Renewal Commission as an entity to plan and construct a new wastewater treatment facility to serve major industries within the City and the residential population in the vicinity;

2. Over the years the City has had difficulty attracting new manufacturers, in part, because of the charter requirement for the manufacturer to provide a capital contribution of 4% or more of the original capital cost of the facility. The original cost of the facility was approximately $47.5 million; therefore a new manufacturer with a discharge greater than 500,000 gallons per day is required to pay the City $1.9 million and then become a member of the Commission. In the 1970s when this section of the charter was created, this clause was relevant to assist the City in the payment of the debt service on the facility. However, since the facility is now 40 years old and its costs are depreciated, the $1.9 million is extravagant and makes the City less competitive with other localities. Therefore, the proposed amendment deletes this requirement and provides that City Council can determine the appropriate contribution for a new manufacturer to become a member of the Hopewell Water Renewal Commission.

3. The current charter language also designates 8 members to the Commission with 5 of the members nominated by the manufacturers which assisted in the planning and financing of the plant. Since the 1970s, the number of manufacturers is now 4. The proposed amendment eliminates reference to the number of members on the Commission, allowing for membership flexibility.

4. The proposed amendment also specifies that the City is represented by a City Councilor, the City Manager, and the City Attorney. The current charter language implies that the City is represented by 3 members on the Commission, although who these representatives are is not expressed. In the bylaws and its subsequent amendments, the title of the City's representatives are identified as a City Councilor, the City Manager, and the City Attorney. This amendment will codify the bylaws and the current practice.

5. At the time that this section of the charter was created, the wastewater plant (Hopewell Water Renewal) was in the planning and construction phase. Since the plant is now 40 years old, the Commission is now assisting with maintenance and expansion of the facility rather than planning and construction of the facility. Therefore, a final proposed

amendment is to substitute planning and construction assistance with maintenance and expansion assistance as the Commission members' responsibilities.

2015-2017

Federal Legislative Request

4th Congressional District

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

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H.R. 1621

To modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia

STATEMENT OF DR. STEPHANIE TOOTHMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CULTURAL RESOURCES, PARTNERSHIPS AND SCIENCE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LANDS, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, CONCERNING H.R. 1621, A BILL TO MODIFY THE BOUNDARY OF PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

February 11, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the views of the Department of the Interior on H.R. 1621, a bill to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 1621 with amendments described later in this statement.

H.R. 1621 has three components. First, the bill would expand the currently authorized boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield by approximately 7,238 acres. The boundary expansion proposal results from an analysis of "core battlefields" and a subsequent boundary adjustment study conducted as part of Petersburg National Battlefield's General Management Plan completed in 2004. Second, the bill would provide for a conforming amendment increasing the acreage ceiling at the City Point unit from 21 acres to 25 acres. Third, the bill would effect a land exchange between the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Army involving approximately one acre.

The City of Petersburg lies in the corridor of intensive growth from Washington, D.C. to south of Richmond, Virginia. The region surrounding Petersburg National Battlefield has been experiencing significant development pressures impacting areas immediately adjacent to the park and unprotected battlefield sites. This development not only threatens park resources and public enjoyment but also the core portions of the battlefields.

The park commemorates the Petersburg Campaign, the longest sustained combative military front on American soil, in both time and distance. When Congress created the park in 1926, only a fraction of the battlefield acreage associated with the 26 major battles of the Petersburg Campaign was included in the boundary. The additional lands proposed to be added to the park by H.R. 1621 would allow the public to better understand the size, complexity, and duration of the 9½ month Petersburg Campaign and siege while offering protection to existing park resources.

In 2002, in response to significant development pressures in the region surrounding the park and as part of its General Management Plan process, Petersburg National Battlefield undertook a detailed assessment of battlefields in the Petersburg Campaign cited in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) report of 1993 entitled "Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields." The CWSAC report identified 100,000 acres of the Petersburg battlefields as "core battlefields" encompassing all of the critical phases defined for a battle. Of the 100,000 acres cited, 23,000 acres were determined to retain historic integrity.

During its more detailed analyses of the 23,000 acres, the park concentrated on those portions of the battlefields that were south of the Appomattox River and directly associated with the siege or defense of Petersburg, and that were identified as Class A (decisive) and Class B (major) by the CWSAC. Additionally, the park used historical maps and documentation to further refine the acreage to that constituting the portion of the battlefield on which both armies were engaged directly and that had a bearing on the outcome for each battle. Park staff further analyzed the integrity of these areas and their potential for public access and interpretation. The analyses found that 7,238 acres met the criteria for integrity and interpretability.

The estimated time period for acquisition of the 7,238 acres of these nationally significant lands is 15-20 years. Virtually all of the land subject to the boundary adjustment represents a mixture of private and non-profit, organization-owned parcels. Agricultural and conservation easements will be the preferred method of acquisition for most parcels. Easements enable protection of these battlefields from inappropriate development while retaining private ownership and compatible use of the land. Where easements are not possible, and there is interest by the landowners, other acquisition methods, such as donation and fee simple acquisition from willing sellers based on available funding, will be utilized for battlefield preservation.

Under a 2008 estimate, the total estimated cost of purchasing in fee simple all of the 7,238 acres would be $29.7 million. Protection of land through easements and donations, which is anticipated for a large portion of the lands, would likely significantly lower acquisition costs and is the Department's preferred method of protection. The estimated cost for capital expenses (trails, wayside exhibits, rehabilitation of existing visitor contact station, etc.) and expansion-related costs (surveys, hazardous materials studies, etc.) is $1.9 million. Development of visitor services and interpretation at these new battlefield locations would be minimal and include small parking areas, wayside exhibits, and trail and other enhancements to the sites. The annual increase in park operation and maintenance is estimated to be $531,000. Development and operational numbers are in 2014 dollars. All funds would be subject to NPS priorities and the availability of appropriations.

Public response to the General Management Plan and the proposed boundary expansion has been favorable among local governments, organizations, and individuals. The Dinwiddie County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution supporting future legislation to expand the boundary of the park as outlined in the General Management Plan. Many civic organizations in the Petersburg region have also indicated support for the proposal.

The bill would also provide for a conforming amendment increasing the acreage ceiling at the City Point unit in Hopewell from 21 acres to 25 acres. In 1978, Petersburg National Battlefield was authorized to acquire the Eppes family property at City Point, provided that the amount of land acquired did not exceed 21 acres [Public Law 95-625]. The Conservation Fund owns land adjacent to the park property at the City Point unit that was purchased for the battlefield, and that land would be added to the park boundary under this bill. However, the addition of that land would exceed the 21-acre limit on land the park is authorized to acquire at City Point. Raising that limit to 25 acres would ensure that there is no conflict between the 1978 authority and this bill. In addition, ensuring clear legal authority for the park's acquisition of the Conservation Fund land would facilitate a potential land exchange that would enable the NPS to dispose of a portion of the park's property at City Point that has no relevance to the park's mission or interpretive themes.

The bill would also effect a transfer of administrative jurisdiction between the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Interior involving two small parcels of land. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Army was required to erect a perimeter fence around Fort Lee Military Reservation, located adjacent to Petersburg National Battlefield. The fence intruded slightly into the boundary of the park. Effective upon enactment of this bill, the Army would receive administrative jurisdiction over the 1.170 acres of park land where the perimeter fence is located and the National Park Service would receive 1.171 acres of land at Fort Lee.

While the Army and the National Park Service have long been supportive of this exchange, we are currently in discussion with the Army about a possible revision to the plan based on developments that have occurred since the exchange was first conceived. At a minimum, we would want to submit a corrected legislative map for the exchange as well as language

that specifies that the land transferred to the Army be excluded from the park boundary. We may need to seek a more substantial amendment to this portion of the bill. In addition, we may need to make some technical corrections to the legislative map for the boundary expansion, the other map that is referenced in this bill. We will follow up with the committee on these matters as quickly as possible.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my statement. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or other members of the subcommittee may have regarding this bill.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

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H.R.1621 - To modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes.

114th Congress (2015-2016) | Get alerts

BILL Show Overview

Summary (2) | Text (2) | Actions (14) | Titles (1) | Amendments (0) | Cosponsors (3) | Committees (2) | Related Bills (2)

All Actions H.R.1621 — 114th Congress (2015-2016)

All Bill Information (Except Text)

Bill History – Congressional Record References

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14 results for All Actions

Sort by Newest to Oldest

Date	All Actions
05/11/2016	Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 436. Action By: House of Representatives
05/11/2016	Committee on Armed Services discharged. Action By: House of Representatives
05/11/2016	Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 114-562, Part I. Action By: House Natural Resources
03/16/2016	Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent. Action By: House Natural Resources
03/16/2016	Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held. Action By: House Natural Resources
03/15/2016	Subcommittee on Federal Lands Discharged. Action By: House Natural Resources
03/15/2016	Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held. Action By: House Natural Resources
02/11/2016	Subcommittee Hearings Held. Action By: House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands
08/13/2015	Referred to the Subcommittee on Readiness. Action By: House Armed Services
04/08/2015	Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. Action By: House Natural Resources
03/25/2015	Referred to House Armed Services Action By: House of Representatives
03/25/2015	Referred to House Natural Resources Action By: House of Representatives
03/25/2015	Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. Action By: House of Representatives
03/25/2015	Introduced in House Action By: House of Representatives

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H.R.1621 - To modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes.

114th Congress (2015-2016)

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Bill History in the Congressional Record

Page numbers for legislative actions on this bill link to the Congressional Record. Learn more about the History of Bills and Resolutions.

From the Congressional Record, Volume 161 (2015)

H.R. 1621--A bill to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FORBES (for himself and Mr. Scott of Virginia), H2033 [25MR]

Cosponsors added, H2357 [21AP]

From the Congressional Record, Volume 162 (2016)

H.R. 1621--A bill to modify the boundary of Petersburg National Battlefield in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Cosponsors added, H1464 [17MR]

Reported with amendment from the Committee on Natural Resources (H. Rept. 114-562, part 1), H2280 [11MY]

Committee on Armed Services discharged, H2280 [11MY]

Aderholt-Hunter House Talking Points

- The Historic Aderholt-Hunter House is located in Hopewell, Virginia, within the Petersburg National Battlefield boundary and the local City Point Historic District boundary. However, while historically significant, it is not relevant to the "period of significance" of the Petersburg National Battlefield and therefore is not eligible for federal funding which is much needed for maintenance. This historic treasure is falling into decay.
- A private citizen, who is dedicated to historic preservation and has rehabilitated several properties in the Tri-Cities area, is interested in purchasing the Aderholt-Hunter House to rehabilitate and use as his residence. However, the house could not be sold without the land remaining in ownership of the National Park Service.
- The City believes there is a solution. In order to facilitate the sale and rehabilitation of the Aderholt-Hunter House, a land swap will be necessary. This land swap would be between the National Park Service (Aderholt-Hunter House) and The Conservation Fund (land).
- The Conservation Fund owns a total of approximately 1.4 acres along Water Street in the City Point historic area which are outside of the National Park boundary but are within the "period of significance" for the Petersburg National Battlefield. The land swap would increase the Park Service property by more than the 21 acres allowed per the Act of November 10, 1978 which provided the authority to acquire lands in the City Point area.
- The City of Hopewell requests your assistance on two levels:

    1. The development of the necessary legislation to authorize the acquisition of the 1.42 acres of land from The Conservation Fund and to swap this land for that of the Aderholt-Hunter House; and
    2. Secondly, a boundary revision to bring The Conservation Fund properties into the Park Service boundary.
    3. Congressman Randy Forbes introduces H.R. 1621 on March 25, 2015. This legislation was placed on House calendar No. 436. Current status awaiting action by the full House of Representatives.

The Virginia First Cities 2017 Draft Proposed Legislative Program

2017 Virginia First Cities Community Wealth Building Policy Initiatives

for approval 12/2/16

Guiding Principles

Virginia First Cities' members are among the most fiscally stressed cities in the Commonwealth. Our cities are not receiving enough revenue to meet the needs of our communities. Recognizing the fiscal stress that the Commonwealth is experiencing as a whole, we respectfully request that the General Assembly and the Governor not balance the budget on the backs of our stressed local governments.

State mandates take a heavy toll on our cities and further exacerbate our cities' fiscal stress. We urge General Assembly legislators to give our cities, and all Virginia local government, the flexibility and tools to avoid or ameliorate this fiscal stress.

As Virginia state government has been publicly resistant to federal mandates, so too, local governments are resistant to state mandates when not accompanied by appropriations to implement these mandates. At some point, the push down of mandates to Virginia cities results in inferior service to the government closest to the people. When you couple the effect of state mandates on local government, with the unique Virginia Dillon Rule and local government's inability to raise revenues to pay for mandates, at some point it become untenable and other local services fail. This vicious cycle seems to be played out year after year in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

When there is an opportunity for local government to generate tax revenue from new internet-based businesses like AirBnB/short-term rental companies, we are challenged with legislation that would deny local governments the tools to regulate where and how these short-term rental companies can operate. Further, the state has proposed collecting the tax revenue and remitting back to localities. Experience has taught us that this never ends well for local government.

The good news is that many of our VFC cities are experiencing revitalization with millennials and empty nesters moving back in to many of our cities. We are experiencing a high demand for services and very few tools to meet the at-risk educational needs, the housing stock needs, and the other infrastructure needs that are all critical to stable local government.

We recognize the serious financial and budgetary challenges facing the Commonwealth. VFC urges the General Assembly to protect funding for the programs noted below, and to create programs like the Community Wealth Building Fund that will be a repository until such time as the Commonwealth's revenue and budgetary picture is more secure.

Accordingly, VFC's 2017 Legislative Agenda is proposed as follows:

Comprehensive Poverty Reduction: Create a comprehensive Community Wealth Building state matching fund, partnering with local programs that target intractable long-term pockets of poverty

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through combined education and job training, housing and transportation resources, mentoring and prisoner re-entry, childcare and early education, and other programs that break the cycle of poverty. Prioritize the use of "Go Virginia" funding to create jobs for those in poverty.

- **Increase the Minimum Wage** from its current federally mandated level of $7.25 per hour to $10.10 per hour

At-Risk Public Education/Challenged Schools

- **Increase At-Risk Add-On program funding**
  At least a 20 percent boost to basic aid per concentrated levels of free lunch students in order to fund the wraparound services necessary to meet state SOL, SOA, and graduation requirements.

- **Provide adequate Virginia Pre-school Initiative funding and policies**
  Funding and policies should be flexible enough to ensure success for early childhood education programs.

- **Attract and retain quality teachers to challenged urban schools**
  Teacher improvement programs, such as the Master Teacher Residency Program, should be expanded and teacher pay policies should recognize the difficulty of attracting quality teachers to challenged schools and subjects.

- **Continue the commitment to Extended Day and Year school funding programs**
  Extended day/year school funding programs that allow schools time to target and assist students at-risk of failure.

- **Monitor and Support the Virginia Board of Education Recommendations to the General Assembly on the SOQs and Foundational Programs Required for Schools to Prepare a Diverse Student Population for Success.**

Economic Development

- **Virginia Enterprise Zone Program**
  The state should provide adequate funding to avoid grant proration for businesses that are located in distressed communities.

- **Protect Brownfields Restoration Land Renewal Program** *assessment and rehabilitation funding.*

- **Protect Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits**
  A study of this program will provide empirical evidence of the immense economic and urban redevelopment value that these tax credits have provided our cities

- **Strengthen housing policies and options for low income Virginians**, including the Housing Trust Fund.

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- **Increase blight reduction efforts** including funding derelict structures removal.

Public Safety

- **Restore Virginia Department of Corrections' local community diversion centers**
  Enhance drug courts, and enact sensible non-violent offender laws including felony threshold levels, and meaningful prisoner re-entry assistant funding.

- **Protect and enhance state Aid to Police Departments** with a formula that recognizes the costs of higher levels of serious crime.
- **Provide adequate assistance for community juvenile justice commitments.**

- **Restore VJCCCA funding** for local juvenile behavior improvements programs.

- Make wholesale improvements in **mental health and substance abuse programs for individuals in local and regional jails.**

Health and Human Services

- **Provide adequate state funding for local administration of social services and health departments**

- **Expand Medicaid in Virginia.**
  Expanding Medicaid or creating a state solution to use federal dollars would be good for Virginia's economy, bringing an estimated $6.2 million per day to the Commonwealth, resulting in billions of dollars to support the health care industry, supportive health care industries, and employment.

- **Provide fair local match rates for Child Services Act funding.**
  Eliminate the match requirement for non-mandated children.

- **Continue to direct TANF funding to programs that break the cycle of poverty**
  This includes the Healthy Families program and Community Action Agencies. Modify TANF localities groupings for assistance payments to reflect current local costs.

- **Increase funding and support for childhood cancer research.**

Transportation

- Provide **equitable street maintenance payment funding from the state, including the conversion of city streets to bike lanes.**

- Ensure state policies include **construction and major rehabilitation funding for city streets and major arterials.**

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- Provide dedicated funding for **Public Transit.**

Natural Resources

- Push for additional **Stormwater Local Assistance funds** to meet Clean Water and Chesapeake Bay Act requirements.

Tax Policy and Revenue Enhancements

- Increase the **Standard Individual Income Tax Deduction** to help lower income filers.

- Expand the state's **Earned Income Tax Credit** to encourage and support low-wage working families.

- **Study Dedicating Additional Lottery Monies to Local Governments**. Support for a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study of the feasibility of dedicating additional lottery dollars to local governments.

- **Marketplace Fairness Act**
  We urge the adoption at the federal level of the Internet Fairness Act. There should be a level playing field for competing services in the market place that treats sales tax obligations the same, whether entering a store by foot, by mail, by phone or by the Internet

- **Tax Certification**
  Support the Danville pilot project legislation allowing localities, by ordinance, to require that the Clerk of Court should not record any deed conveying an interest in real property without a certification from the Director of Finance that all delinquent real estate taxes and nuisance abatement charges assessed against that property has been paid. Any attorney drafting a deed as part of a real estate settlement may also provide certification that all such delinquent amounts will be paid from settlement funds disbursed at closing. This will improve tax collection and will streamline tax lien and Building Code enforcement and protect citizens from the fraudulent or malicious transfer of tax burdened properties.

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The Virginia Municipal League 2017 Legislative Program

2017 VML Legislative Program

Education Funding

A strong public school system is essential to economic development and prosperity. The state must be a reliable funding partner in accordance with the Virginia Constitution and state statutes. The Standards of Quality should recognize the resources, including positions, required for a high-quality public education system. VML opposes changes in methodology and changes in the division of financial responsibility that result in a shift of funding responsibility from the state to localities.

Further, VML opposes policies that lower state contributions but do nothing to address the cost of meeting the requirements of the Standards of Accreditation and Standards of Learning.

Any approach to improving low-performing schools must include adequate state financial support. VML supports increased state funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, the K-3 reduced class size program and Early Reading Intervention program. VML also supports increased state stipends for highly effective teachers in high-poverty schools, and other innovative programs for teachers and students.

State and Local Government Fiscal Relationship

Governance at the local level becomes ever more challenging as the Commonwealth and the Federal government add new programs, or modify existing program guidelines, and promulgate complex regulations and higher standards for local governments to implement. It is not uncommon for the state and federal governments to either underfund their share of the costs or to ignore them altogether.

To that end, the Virginia Municipal League holds as essential these principles on local taxing and budget authority.

- Specific local revenue authority and sources cannot be further restricted without first granting and providing alternative revenue authority with reliable, sustainable revenue sources. This includes, without limitation, the BPOL and M&T taxes.
- Local governments should be involved in any discussions relating to local taxing authority including legislation that exempts specific industries from local taxes and fees.
- Local general fund revenue and special funds cannot be confiscated or re-directed to the state treasury.
- Placing additional administrative burdens on local governments without sufficient resources or administrative flexibility jeopardizes the quality of services delivered at the local level. Local governments cannot be expected to bear the expenses related to the imposition of new funding requirements or the expansion of existing ones on services delivered at the local level without a commensurate increase of state financial assistance or new local taxing authority.
- Shifting traditional state funding responsibilities onto local governments for services including public education, law enforcement, and public safety activities and any core services affecting local government, is bad fiscal policy, resulting in stress on local finances without reductions in overall program costs.

- Imposing state fees, taxes or surcharges on local government services impedes transparency at both the state and local level.
- Any efforts at tax reform must begin with a thorough examination of state tax reform and the financing of state services. The State should reform its own tax structure before taking on the topic of local taxes. State and/or local tax changes should not negatively affect local revenues.
- State budget cuts to state mandated and other high priority programs should specify the programs to be affected by the cuts.

The Commonwealth should:

- Enter into a dialogue with local governments to examine state requirements and service expansions that can be suspended or modified to alleviate to the degree possible the financial burden on state and local taxpayers.
- Examine models in other states that allow for modernizing state and local taxing authority.
- Develop spending and revenue priorities that support economic development, public safety, education and other public goals. State tax credits, tax deductions and tax relief policies must receive the same scrutiny as spending programs as part of the prioritization process.
- In times of revenue crises, review ways to increase revenues to meet constitutional and statutory obligations to Virginia citizens after all other actions have been taken.
- Include local government representatives on any "blue ribbon" commission or other body established by the state that has as its purpose changes to local revenue authority or governance.

State Assistance to Local Police Departments (HB 599)

Almost 70 percent of Virginians live in communities served by police departments. The state created a program of financial assistance to local police departments, but has increasingly de-emphasized this funding obligation as a priority. VML calls for the state to honor its commitment to public safety by funding the program as stipulated in the Code of Virginia.

Taxing, Licensing, and Regulating Internet-based Businesses and Services

If the Commonwealth should take action to regulate private enterprises employing a business model that emphasizes the use of the Internet to either provide retail or facilitate lodging or ride-sharing services, then local government interests should be acknowledged and localities should be included in the decision-making. As general principles, VML believes state and local policies should (1) encourage a level playing field for competing services in the market place; (2) seek to preserve and/or replace local and state tax revenues; (3) ensure safety, reliability, and access for consumers, providers, and the public; and (4) protect local government's ability to regulate businesses whether they are traditional, electronic, Internet-based, virtual or otherwise.

Transportation and Transit Funding

VML recognizes the importance and critical support provided by the Commonwealth for local and regional transportation and transit capital needs. To that end, VML believes the projected decline in state funding over the upcoming biennia will negatively affect the movement

of people and goods, thereby hindering economic development, jeopardizing public safety and degrading the quality of life in our localities.

The state should continue to financially support transportation and transit capital needs, exploring all options including the issuance of Commonwealth bonds. VML supports adequate funding of the Smart Scale (HB 2) program in addressing transportation and transit needs.

Access to Healthy Food

VML supports approaches (including but not limited to the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund) to provide financial and technical support for businesses to expand and ensure greater access to healthy food for residents of the Commonwealth.

Roadway Maintenance Payments; Bicycle Lanes

VML supports the ability of cities and towns that receive roadway maintenance payments from the Commonwealth based on moving-lane miles of roadway to not see their payments reduced if moving-lane miles of roadway are converted to bicycle-only lanes. Municipalities will not reduce their funding after a conversion.

Landscape Materials

VML supports the ability of localities to regulate the use of specific landscape cover materials or the retrofit of existing landscape cover materials for the health, safety, and welfare of their citizens.

Local Authority to Regulate Plastic Bags

VML requests that the General Assembly grant localities the authority to regulate and curtail the use of retail plastic bags. This authority would provide local governments an additional tool to reduce litter and improve local water quality.

Lottery for Localities

VML requests that the General Assembly authorize the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the feasibility of dedicating additional lottery dollars to local governments. As part of the study, JLARC should identify and evaluate the potential impacts of the "Lottery for Localities" proposal on other state financial aid programs, including school funding, and the proposal's possible financial impact on lottery sales.

Municipal Net Metering

VML requests that the General Assembly grant local governments the right to aggregate the electric load of their buildings, facilities, and any other governmental operations for the purpose of net energy metering. Additionally, VML requests that the General Assembly raise the net-metering limit from 1,000 kilowatts to 2,000 kilowatts for non-residential customers.

Price Floor for Regional Gas Taxes

VML supports an amendment to Virginia Code § 58.1-2295 that would establish a protective floor price for the 2.1 percent regional gas tax, such as was done for the statewide fuels tax in §58.1-2217. Such a floor concept is essential to provide a more stable, dedicated revenue source needed for long-term financing of regional projects.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative & Commonwealth Resilience Fund

VML urges the General Assembly to address greenhouse gas emissions targets through a Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory (RGGI) carbon credit auction, and/or a carbon emissions tax. All proceeds derived from the auction of credits should be used to establish the "Commonwealth Resilience Fund," a special state-dedicated fund to assist localities in addressing flooding, energy efficiency improvements, and economic development.

State Corporation Commission Jurisdiction over Local Utilities

Because the State Corporation Commission lacks jurisdiction over local government utilities under the Virginia Constitution, the General Assembly should not enact any legislation that purports to grant the SCC any regulatory powers over local utilities.

Stormwater Utility Charges

VML opposes further amendments to the regulation of stormwater that would require a locality to waive stormwater charges.

Water Quality Funding / Wastewater Discharge and Pollutant Allocation Limits

VML requests that the General Assembly provide sufficient appropriations to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) to fulfill point source upgrade contracts with local governments as well as cost-share payments to farm operators for the implementation of agricultural best management practices. Additionally, VML requests that the General Assembly provide sufficient appropriations, including dedicated revenues to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) to address costs associated with permit requirements tied to federal Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) and new EPA regulations.

VML opposes any legislation that would reduce or limit local government's sewage discharge capacity, including nutrient allocations, as such capacity and allocations are critical to our members' economic development efforts.

CITY OF HOPEWELL

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