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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW



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2438 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6365

425-H SOUTH MAIN STREET
EMPORIA, VA 23847
(434) 634-5575

2903 BOULEVARD, SUITE B
• COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834
(804) 526-4969

505 INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY
LAKE CENTER II—SUITE 104
CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320
(757) 382-0080

J. Randy Forbes
United States Congress
4th District, Virginia

October 26, 2009

Mr. Michael W. Johnson
County Administrator, Southampton County
26022 Administration Ctr. Dr.
P.O. Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am writing in response to your submission of Southampton County's April 27, 2009 resolution encouraging the United States Congress to adopt legislation and to appropriate funds for the removal of the environmentally hazardous James River Reserve Fleet. I appreciate your office taking the time to share Southampton County's thoughts on this important issue.

As you know, the James River Reserve Fleet, commonly known as the Ghost Fleet, is maintained by the United States Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) at Fort Eustis, Virginia as a reserve of ships for defense and national emergencies. In 2001, however, Congress passed the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act, authorizing MARAD to use appropriated funds for the procurement of ship dismantling and recycling services for the responsible disposal of such National Defense Reserve Fleet vessels no longer considered useful for such purposes. Since then the Maritime Administration's Ship Disposal Program has utilized domestic recycling, artificial reefing, ship donations, and SINKEX (sink at-sea live-fire training exercise) as the primary means of ship disposal.

Noting the threat of contamination through leakage of waste fuels, asbestos, mercury and other toxic materials, I support the efforts of MARAD in disposing of obsolete or otherwise derelict vessels comprising the Ghost Fleet at Fort Eustis.

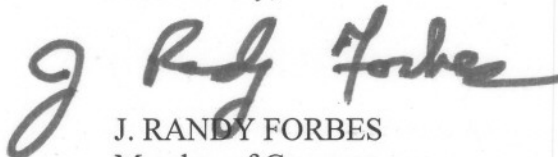
As a Member of the Virginia State Senate, I introduced a resolution requiring the United States Coast Guard to provide funding from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to remove oil contained in Reserve Fleet vessels and to complete the scrapping of such vessels in a timely and responsible manner. This resolution passed the Virginia House of Delegates on February 26, 2001.

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Furthermore, as a Member of Congress, I will continue to support funding for the removal of the Ghost Fleet through requests made to the Transportation Committee and Appropriations Committee. I will also continue to support MARAD as it removes those vessels from the James River which present the highest risk to the environment. On August 24, 2009, MARAD announced the planned removal of two more ships from the James River Ghost Fleet – the Escape and the Cape Cod. These ships represent the 83rd and 84th vessel to leave the Ghost Fleet since 2001.

Thank you again for sharing with me Southampton County's thoughts on this important maritime concern. If you have any questions with respect to the foregoing, or should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact my legislative assistant for maritime issues, Andrew Donahue (andrew.donahue@mail.house.gov), at (202) 225-6365. With kind personal regards, I am

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Randy Forbes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress



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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Street address: 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

TDD (804) 698-4021

www.deq.virginia.gov

David K. Paylor
Director

(804) 698-4000
1-800-592-5482

L. Preston Bryant, Jr.
Secretary of Natural Resources

October 23, 2009

Mr. Michael W. Johnson
County Administrator
County of Southampton
P.O. Box 400
Courtland, Virginia 23837

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I am pleased to inform you that a grant award of **\$10,916** has been approved for the **County of Southampton, and the Towns of Boykins, Branchville, Capron, Courtland, Ivor & Newsoms** Litter Prevention and Recycling Program activities for the period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

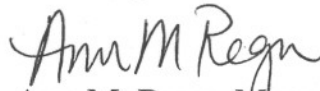
DEQ's calculation of your grant award was based on the following distribution:

Southampton County:	\$6,372
Town of Boykins:	\$1,000
Town of Branchville:	\$1,000
Town of Capron:	\$1,000
Town of Courtland:	\$1,000
Town of Ivor:	\$1,000
Town of Newsoms:	\$1,000
Total of Base Grant:	\$12,372
Less Excess Carry-Forward from P & A:	\$(1,456)
Net Grant:	\$10,916

A payment for this amount should be received within the next two weeks if funds can be transferred electronically (EDI) or in thirty days if processing by check is required. You also indicated on your Accounting Report that you have Carry-Forward Funds \$ 4,889 for a total, then, of **\$15,805** available to you this year.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact
Sheila Barnett at sheila.barnett@deq.virginia.gov or (804) 698-4055.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann M. Regn".

Ann M. Regn, Manager

Virginia Office of Environmental Education

Cc: John P. Jenkins

RAILEY AND RAILEY, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW
POST OFFICE BOX 40
COURTLAND, VIRGINIA 23837

RICHARD E. RAILEY, JR.
R. EDWARD RAILEY, III
RICHARD E. RAILEY 1922-2004

(757) 653-2351
Fax (757) 653-0930
E-mail anne@raileyraileypc.com

October 20, 2009

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The Honorable Richard L. Francis, Clerk
Circuit Court of Southampton County
Post Office Box 190
Courtland, VA 23837

Re: Southampton County Grass Cutting Lien

Dear Rick:

I am enclosing herewith a certified copy of a Resolution as to the creation of liens securing the expenses of enforcement of the grass cutting ordinance, pursuant to Section 10-48 of the Southampton County Code. As I read the law, in accordance with §15.2-104 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, this Resolution should be recorded and indexed in the Judgment Lien Book.

However, I fully acknowledge that I am traveling in new territory and would be happy to have your questions or comments.

With a copy of this letter to The Honorable David K. Britt, Treasurer of Southampton County, I am asking that he record a copy of this Resolution, also pursuant to the provisions of §15.2-104 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, and §58.1-3930 of said Code.

Again, please feel free to let me have your questions and comments.

With kind personal regards, I am

Very sincerely,


Richard E. Railey, Jr.

abr
Enclosure
pc: The Honorable David K. Britt, Treasurer of Southampton County
lpc: Mr. Michael W. Johnson, Administrator
Southampton County