

August 5, 2021

MEMBER
JURISDICTIONS

CHESAPEAKE	Senator Timothy M. Kaine United States Senate	Senator Mark R. Warner United States Senate
FRANKLIN	Congressman Donald S. Beyer, Jr. Virginia – 8th District	Congressman Benjamin L. Cline Virginia – 6th District
GLOUCESTER	Congressman Gerald E. Connolly Virginia – 11th District	Congressman Robert G. Good Virginia – 5th District
HAMPTON	Congressman H. Morgan Griffith Virginia – 9th District	Congresswoman Elaine G. Luria Virginia – 2nd District
ISLE OF WIGHT	Congressman A. Donald McEachin Virginia – 4th District	Congressman Robert C. Scott Virginia – 3rd District
JAMES CITY	Congresswoman Abigail A. Spanberger Virginia – 7th District	Congresswoman Jennifer L. Wexton Virginia - 10th District
NORFOLK	Congressman Robert J. Wittman Virginia – 1st District	
POQUOSON		
PORTSMOUTH	RE: Jefferson Lab, Newport News – Request for Support of the President’s FY2022 Budget Request for the Department of Energy	
SMITHFIELD		
SOUTHAMPTON	Dear Members of the Virginia Federal Delegation:	
SUFFOLK	As Chair and Vice-Chair of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), we write to you today requesting that you fully support the President’s FY2022 budget request for the Department of Energy that would provide critical support for the Jefferson Lab facility in Newport News. The HRPDC represents 17 local governments and over 1.7 million residents that comprise the Hampton Roads region. The HRPDC is one of 21 PDCs in the Commonwealth of Virginia created by State Code “to encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing, on a regional basis, problems of greater than local significance.”	
SURRY		
VIRGINIA BEACH		
WILLIAMSBURG		
YORK		

Jefferson Lab is Virginia's only Department of Energy national laboratory. It is a single-program lab, focusing solely on basic research in fundamental nuclear physics. This lab is also a national treasure upon which the nation relies and of which all Virginians should be proud. But its sole focus on nuclear physics is also a weakness, as there is no diversity in its portfolio to take advantage of changing priorities with Federal research and development opportunities. Other Department of Energy national labs funded through multiple programs enjoy far greater opportunities for budget growth and increased national impact, while single-program labs such as Jefferson Lab are more likely to have stagnant or even reduced levels of funding.

There are two near-term opportunities to change the dynamic at Jefferson Lab as you work the FY2022 budget in the months ahead. The first is to support the President's budget request as submitted to Congress in late May. For the first time in years, the Department of Energy asked for sufficient funding to provide much-needed upgrades and funding for Jefferson Lab's core mission of fundamental nuclear physics research. But a recent mark by the House Appropriations Committee's Energy and Water Development Subcommittee made dramatic reductions to the President's funding request, which would result in layoffs and curtailment of work at Jefferson Lab, which would be detrimental to Virginia's economy – we simply cannot let that happen.

The second opportunity is also contained in the President's FY2022 budget request to Congress, and that is for the siting of a High Performance Data Facility (HPDF) at an east coast lab. We want that to be Jefferson Lab, but the same House subcommittee did not call out this project at all in their mark. Restoring this language would provide the opportunity for multiple programs that are sorely needed at Jefferson Lab.

Our ask of you is very straight-forward – please do everything you can to support Jefferson Lab's future diversification by fully supporting the President's FY2022 budget request for the Department of Energy. It is vital to the Commonwealth and to the nation and our economy.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request and for continued leadership on behalf of Virginia.

Sincerely,



Andria P. McClellan
Chair



David H. Jenkins
Vice-Chair

RAC/ka