



March 11, 2020

Mr. Abi Lerner, PE  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
4975 Alliance Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Mr. Lerner:

The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, representing 700 members with over 500,000 employees, is committed to ensuring that our region remains the best place to start and grow a business. In order to maintain our position as a top business destination we must continue to invest in developing a 21st century transportation network aimed at improving our mobility.

That 21st century transportation network requires both public sector investments as well as leveraging private sector investment and innovation. That is why we strongly support the 495 NEXT project that will extend the 495 Express Lanes to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. 495 NEXT will create more than 6,000 jobs and inject more than \$800 million in economic activity into the region. But, maybe more importantly, it will reduce congestion in the region and provide new travel choices, that will help make the Tysons and McLean area more attractive to new businesses and help the existing businesses flourish.

495 NEXT is also a critical first step to getting the American Legion Bridge project completed. The American Legion Bridge project is the most critical transportation project in the region. Once these two projects are completed, the full economic potential of this region will be deployed.

The 495 NEXT extension will move more people, improve safety and improve the quality of life for residents in McLean. We strongly support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Coons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Coons  
President & CEO  
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce