



Oct. 27, 2006

The Honorable Timothy Kaine
Office of the Governor
PO Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Governor Kaine:

Thank you for Secretary of Transportation Pierce R. Homer's letter of Oct. 13 that dealt with the West Virginia manufactured housing industry's concerns about Virginia closing to our traffic the Interstate 77 tunnels in western Virginia for 2 ½ years.

Our industry remains committed to working with Virginia and your transportation department to help resolve this situation, which is disrupting business not only in West Virginia, but also in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, and perhaps elsewhere.

I regret to say, our industry continues to believe Virginia and your transportation department is unresponsive to the needs of the customers, retailers and manufacturers in the factory-built industry who are affected by this closure. We were rebuffed even with the modest proposals we made to allow us to have extremely limited access to the tunnels while fully acknowledging there would be times when the tunnels would have to be closed.

On behalf of business and private taxpayers in all four of these states, I was surprised by your proposal for us alone to pay an additional levy of \$16,000 a day to keep the tunnels open. Have you made similar proposals to other members of private industry along the same lines? If we pay the additional tribute, does that mean we can pick the day when the tunnels will be open?

I feel comfortable in relaying to you that Representatives Nick Rahall and Shelley Moore Capito and Senators Jay Rockefeller and Robert C. Byrd, in addition to West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin and Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredensen, remain vitally interested in clearing this chokehold to interstate commerce in a manner that is the least painful to us all.

Sincerely,
Kevin Wilfong
WVHI Co-president

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