



# Greater Williamsburg CHAMBER & TOURISM ALLIANCE<sup>SM</sup>

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## **ALLIANCE SAYS ALL 41 INTERSTATE REST AREAS SHOULD REMAIN OPEN FOR TRAVELERS — Cites their Importance for Tourism Industry —**

**Williamsburg, VA** — Stating that the proposed closing of more than half of Virginia's interstate rest areas would harm to tourism, the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance is calling on the Commonwealth to keep all 41 interstate rest areas open for travelers throughout Virginia. In addition to providing a safe and welcoming environment for visitors along Virginia's interstate highway system, the rest areas are major distribution points for tourism materials by organizations such as the Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association.

"Destinations, attractions, lodging and other travel-related businesses throughout the state rely on the distribution of these materials to inform and attract visitors driving on our major highways," stated Dick Schreiber, president of the Alliance. "Closing so many rest areas will have a significantly negative affect on tourism, which is one of Virginia's best revenue-producing industries."

The Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) proposal to close 25 interstate rest areas prompted the Alliance's Executive Committee to adopt a resolution calling on the Governor, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, and the Secretary of Transportation to keep all 41 rest areas open. The resolution was approved by the Alliance's Board of Directors during its March 19 meeting.