

## **SUPPORT SJ 50 and HJ 55**

Commonwealth Corridor Passenger Rail Study  
Patrons: Senator McClellan and Delegate Rasoul

### **Reasons to Support SJ 50 and HJ 55**

Passenger rail offers a number of important benefits, including reducing congestion, giving Virginians greater transportation choices, increasing energy efficiency, cutting air pollution, and improving economic competitiveness.

Rail ridership in Virginia has increased significantly over the past decade, and the Commonwealth has increased its support for rail services. However, rail travel within Virginia is limited by the lack of east-west routes.

### **Overview**

SJ 50 and HJ 55 call upon the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to conduct a study of the feasibility of the proposed Commonwealth Corridor passenger rail service, which would connect Hampton Roads, Richmond, Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Roanoke, and the New River Valley. There has not been such east-west service in over 40 years.

This new service would harness changing demographics and demand, connect 65% of Virginia's higher education students, serve nearly 3.7 million Virginians who live within 20 miles of a rail station, help reduce traffic, and substantially cut pollution.



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