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**2012 Legislative Priorities**

*The Greater Richmond Technology Council considers the following priorities paramount to the future success of central Virginia's technology infrastructure and economic development.*

**Support Increasing R&D tax credit cap.** Governor McDonnell and the 2011 General Assembly passed an R&D tax credit with a \$5 million cap to promote innovation and job creation across Virginia to boost industry-sponsored research and collaboration with Virginia's universities. To avoid over subscription and bring Virginia in line with competitive bordering states, the Council encourages Governor McDonnell and the 2012 General Assembly to increase the cap from \$5 to \$10 million.

**Support central Virginia as a competitive location for Data Centers.** The Council would support the expansion of the sales and use tax exemption for the purchase or lease of computer equipment or enabling software by data centers if new jobs are created by not only the data center operator but also collectively by the tenants of the data center.

**Support ensuring the Commonwealth's tax and regulatory environment encourages growth,** especially in the attraction of technology-based industries.

**Support increasing STEM related programs in education.** Develop programs that inform and encourage students to pursue higher education in areas critical to the continued growth of Virginia's technology industry. Develop programs that inform and encourage non-college bound students to earn technology related certifications in areas critical to the continued growth of Virginia's technology industry. Provide financial and other incentives for students entering degree programs in math, science, and engineering, to include: continued funding for FIRST Robotics, student internships, and STEM Education.

**Support invest in e-government initiatives** that incorporate information technologies and enabling procedures that enhance the services provided to Virginia's citizens, businesses, and other arms of government.

**Support CIT's Commonwealth Research Commercialization Fund (CRCF)** which advances science- and technology-based research, development, and commercialization to drive economic growth in Virginia and to encourage collaboration among its institutions of higher education and partnerships between these colleges and universities and business and industry.

**Support collaboration of technology across agencies** to increase efficiency and innovation through system modernization with increased emphasis on mobile computing, server virtualization and investigating collaborative capabilities through Cloud computing options.

**Support Virginia's leadership role in Healthcare IT** though current efforts including the Medical Information Technology Architecture (MITA), the Commonwealth Authentication Services (CAS) and Master Data Management (CAS) programs. Leverage these programs to demonstrate Virginia's leadership in innovation and promote Virginia's interest in expanding its leadership in support of other federally funded initiatives, including those of Homeland Security, HHS, Education and Transportation.

**Support the Commonwealth's focus and interest in Cyber Security** by aligning cyber security policies with those of the federal government. By aligning with federal compliance standards of the federal government the Commonwealth will be in a better position to pursue benchmarking federal funds allocated expanding and integrating cyber security federal/state initiatives.