

March 13, 2009

State Central Committee Members
c/o The Honorable Michael E. Thomas, First Vice Chairman
Republican Party of Virginia
901 East Cary Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Mike and Friends:

It is with concern about getting our party organization pointed in the right direction, upcoming statewide and House of Delegate elections and the future of our Commonwealth that we write on an issue of importance. Recently, we have become aware of a grassroots effort by many of you to remove the current party chairman. We agree with those advocating for a change in leadership at the Republican Party of Virginia (RPV).

Virginia needs consistent, credible leadership. With Bob McDonnell and Bill Bolling as our statewide standard-bearers leading the Republican ticket in this year's elections, we have good reasons to be confident that they – along with you, House candidates and others – will stress practical solutions as the natural expression of common-sense conservatism. We also believe they have a proven track record of not only championing conservative ideas and policies, but also of reaching out beyond our base to independents, swing voters, business leaders and all who might share or be receptive to our goals for a better Virginia. Such outreach by Republicans is how we win elections and it is the sound and sensible approach of a confident and growing party.

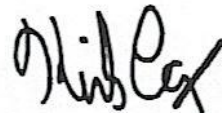
As Republicans, the sum and substance of our message should not be about clichés and misguided comments. Such give fodder to our critics and make it difficult for us to achieve much-needed progress on our priorities. With its current chairman, we have serious reservations about how effectively the state party can help us accomplish our goals and persuade a majority of Virginia voters that Republicans have the right ideas and policy prescriptions to help resolve the issues they care most about in their daily lives.

Having heard from a many of you about the issues you have with the current party chairman, we agree with Bob McDonnell that going into the 2009 elections our party needs strong, respected and new leadership at RPV. Like you, we want to bring people together for victory, while building a strong grassroots organization and delivering our conservative message in ways that appeal to all Virginians.


Sincerely,



William J. Howell



M. Kirkland "Kirk" Cox



Samuel A. "Sam" Nixon, Jr