



Contact: Connie Long
VEDA
757-617-2993

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VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS HONOR SENATOR STOSCH
Award applauds Stosch's contributions to Virginia's economy

RICHMOND – The Virginia Economic Development Association (VEDA) today named Virginia Senator Walter Stosch with its first-ever Legislator of the Year Award. The award was created to honor legislators who serve as ambassadors for economic and community development in Virginia.

“Senator Stosch has been a true champion for the economic efforts of the Commonwealth,” said VEDA President Jay Langston. “There is no one more fitting to receive this inaugural award.”

As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee on Economic Development and Natural Resources, Senator Stosch has helped create a pro-business climate that has lent itself to Virginia’s ranking as “Best State for Business” by Forbes.com. In addition to legislation authorizing tax credits, incentives, performance grant programs and Enterprise Zones, Senator Stosch proposed comprehensive legislation known as the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002. This act brings the public and private sectors together for the construction of needed infrastructure and building projects across Virginia. As chairman of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Economic Development and Natural Resources, Senator Stosch’s successful legislation provided performance grants and tax credits that have helped attract new jobs and investment around the state.

VEDA’s leadership put the Legislator of the Year Award in place to recognize public officials who not only support economic and community development, but are actively engaged in public policy efforts that advance economic prosperity in the Commonwealth. VEDA will present the 2007 Legislator of the Year Award to Senator Stosch at its Oct. 5 fall conference in Newport News.

VEDA was formed in 1982 to provide educational, networking and technical assistance to increase the effectiveness of professionals practicing economic, industrial and community development in Virginia. VEDA provides input to help maintain the Commonwealth’s leadership position in economic development, encourages continued education through state and national economic development organizations, and promotes professionalism and ethics within Virginia’s economic development community. In its 25-year history, the organization has grown from less than 100 to more than 600 Virginia professionals.

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