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**For Immediate Release:
November 4, 2008**

VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS HONOR DELEGATE LOHR

Award applauds Lohr's contributions to Virginia's economy

RICHMOND – The Virginia Economic Development Association (VEDA) today named Virginia Delegate Matthew Lohr with its second annual Legislator of the Year Award. The award was created to honor legislators who serve as ambassadors for economic and community development in Virginia.

“Delegate Lohr is a strong proponent of the Commonwealth’s economic efforts,” said VEDA President Matthew James. “We deeply appreciate his commitment to advancing economic opportunities in Virginia and look forward to working with him in the future.”

In his nomination of Delegate Lohr, Shenandoah Valley Partnership Executive Director Robin Sullenberger, cited Lohr’s work on the continued development of SRI International’s Center for Advanced Drug Research (CADRE) in Rockingham County. The SRI project is contingent upon the state following through on its commitment to incremental funding allocations. “During the 2008 General Assembly session, this commitment was in jeopardy due to the budget crisis, and there was concern that funding might not be forthcoming,” said Sullenberger. “Delegate Lohr worked closely with the House Leadership to shepherd Governor Kaine’s budget amendment related to SRI through the House. His efforts, in cooperation with those of Delegate Steve Landes, assured that the \$4 million would be available for SRI to meet its business plans and allow this world-class research facility to move forward.”

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 2008 Legislator of the Year Award to Delegate Lohr at its Dec. 3 membership luncheon in Fredericksburg.

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 26-year history, the organization has grown from less than 100 to more than 600 Virginia professionals.

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