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VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS HONOR DELEGATE LANDES
Award applauds Landes' contributions to Virginia's economy

RICHMOND – The Virginia Economic Developers Association (VEDA) has awarded Virginia Delegate R. Steven Landes its fifth annual Legislator of the Year Award. The award was created to honor legislators who serve as ambassadors for economic and community development in Virginia.

“As chair of the Economic Development Subcommittee of Appropriations and a budget conferee, Delegate Landes has steadily and skillfully promoted and supported much of the legislation that has made Virginia a top rated state for business,” said Shenandoah Valley Partnership CEO and VEDA member Robin Sullenberger. “He has a keen appreciation for the current impact and long term potential in the bioscience industry in the Commonwealth and understands what it takes to create jobs, build companies and improve quality of life.”

Delegate Landes worked both sides of the aisle in the House, the Senate and with the Governor to find new levels of appropriations and more fully realized the promise of the Angel Investor Tax Credit, as well as the Refundable R&D Tax Credit, the SBIR Match and the Commonwealth Research and Commercialization Fund for companies, and he provided strong support for the Virginia Life Science Research Initiative. Delegate Landes was awarded the VABio Award as Legislator of the Year for 2011-12 at the International BIO Conference in Boston in June. Other budget initiatives include \$1 million dollars for the Agriculture and Forestry Fund as well as \$195,000 for the Shenandoah Valley CCAM initiative.

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 who are actively engaged in public policy efforts that advance economic prosperity in the Commonwealth. The 2012 award was announced at VEDA's Annual Meeting at the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing and was presented to Delegate Landes in his General Assembly office yesterday.

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 30-year history, the organization has grown from less than 100 to more than 550 economic development professionals.

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