

January 25, 2019

Virginia General Assembly
Pocahontas Building
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear General Assembly Members:

An important part of a state's business climate is its legal system. Efficiency, fairness, and predictability are hallmarks of a system that is most compatible with a healthy and welcoming economy.

In the most recent U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform's national rankings, Virginia is ranked #10 in the country, down from #7 just a few years ago. While Virginia's business climate is not at the bottom of the rankings, there is room for significant improvement.

Over the last several months, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce has engaged in extended negotiations with the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. The Chamber's goal has been to make Virginia's civil justice system more efficient, fairer to all parties involved, and add more certainty to process—all important aspects of a healthy legal climate. These efforts will also improve Virginia's standing in the national business climate rankings.

The result of these discussions is **SB 1457 (Vogel)** and **SB 1486 (Obenshain.)** **SB 1457** will provide a process when a corporate executive is sought to be deposed in litigation. **SB 1486** will allow for limited use of depositions to support a motion for summary judgment in cases between businesses.

As representatives of some of Virginia's leading employers, we ask for your support for this important legislation package. **Please support SB 1457 (Vogel) and SB 1486 (Obenshain.)**

We hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely,

