



*Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor*

A Letter from Governor Terence R. McAuliffe

Grow. Strengthen. Diversify. These words are at the foundation of my administration's efforts to build a New Virginia Economy. They are also the words that guided the process that my staff and I undertook as we developed this quadrennial Virginia Energy Plan. If we are going to build the economy Virginia families deserve, we must begin by giving them the energy plan our economy demands.

The 2014 Virginia Energy Plan will lead our efforts to grow, strengthen, and diversify Virginia's economy in four ways:

- 1. We will diversify our economy by strategically growing the energy sector.** There is tremendous untapped potential in many areas of the energy sector including wind and solar generation, biofuels, offshore energy development, and nuclear technology. We have an opportunity to create tens of thousands of jobs and generate hundreds of millions of dollars and bring new companies to Virginia.
- 2. We will innovate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lower energy consumption throughout the Commonwealth.** The cleanest and cheapest energy is the energy that is not consumed. Strong energy efficiency measures in government, businesses, and residences will reduce energy consumption and diminish the need for new power plants. Converting more large-scale vehicle fleets to alternative fuel technology will lower greenhouse gas emissions and make Virginia more energy independent. Focusing on zero carbon-emitting energy sources will help our Commonwealth become a leader in fighting climate change.
- 3. We will strengthen our business climate by investing in reliable and resilient energy infrastructure.** Access to low-cost power in every corner of the Commonwealth is a critical tool in promoting economic development, particularly in areas of high unemployment and a shrinking economic base.
- 4. We will prepare Virginia's workforce to drive the energy economy into the future.** Coordination and collaboration with higher education institutions, research laboratories, and career technical centers is imperative in filling the impending gap in the energy sector created by an aging and retiring workforce.

The goals and recommendations set forth in this plan are by no means exhaustive. With many uncertainties in the energy landscape, including proposed federal regulations intended to reduce carbon emissions, we must remain flexible and adaptive. On other issues, like combating the effects of climate change and finding a path to a stronger portfolio standard, we have more work to do.

But if we work together, we can look back four years from today and say unequivocally that ours is an economy that is stronger, less dependent on externalities, and fueled by cleaner and more abundant Virginia energy. That is my administration's goal – and our efforts begin with this Energy Plan for a New Virginia Economy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence R. McAuliffe".

Terence R. McAuliffe