

## **Opening Comments of Senator Y. Miller October 21, 2009**

Welcome to today's meeting of the General Government Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee.

Over the summer, we met twice to look into questions and issues related to the provision of services by the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and the Commonwealth's contract with its private partner, Northrop Grumman. After briefings that provided us with the necessary background information, we deferred further meetings to allow JLARC to complete its interim report. This was accomplished last week.

Today, we will hear from Mr. Ashley Colvin, JLARC's Chief Analyst on the VITA review project. I'd like to thank Mr. Colvin, the other JLARC staff; Phil Leone, JLARC's Director; and Delegate Kirk Cox, the JLARC chairman, for the collaboration that has made this possible. Much has been made in the press over JLARC's report. It is important for us to keep an open mind until we have had the opportunity to digest the reports findings.

After the JLARC report, we will hear from Mr. George F. Coulter, Chief Information Officer at the Virginia Information Technologies Agency. Following Mr. Coulter's remarks, we will hear from Mr. Samuel Abbate, Vice President and VITA Program Manager for Northrop Grumman Information Systems. Although we have read of their comments in the press, and some of us may have been visited by their representatives, this is the subcommittee's first opportunity to hear directly from the management of Northrop Grumman. They were invited to send a representative to our meeting in July, but were unable to do so.

Mr. Abbate is new to Virginia, having most recently been involved with a project in New York City. I know you join me in welcoming him to the Commonwealth. I'm sure he will find that our

subcommittee provides a fair and considered forum for review of these potentially contentious issues.

If there are no questions from the members of the subcommittee, I'd now like to ask Ashley Colvin to brief us on the JLARC report. Since this subcommittee has already met twice to hear presentations on the issues before us, I have asked Mr. Colvin to focus on the findings of the JLARC study at the expense of background information. This approach will make the best use of our time. Of course, feel free to ask questions at any point.