

Closing Comments of Senator Y. Miller

October 21, 2009

Thank you all for your informative presentations.

I especially want to thank Ashley Colvin and the other staff at JLARC for the excellent work they have done for us under a tight time frame. Today's presentation has been very helpful to our understanding of the implementation of the contract with Northrop Grumman.

I can not emphasize enough how seriously we take the findings and recommendations contained in any JLARC report. The meaning of this report is clear – for the period covered by the report, the implementation of the contract with Northrop Grumman has been seriously flawed. Hopefully, management changes instituted by both the Commonwealth and Northrop Grumman will turn things around. Hope alone, however, is a poor management tool.

As I said at our previous meetings we will continue to work to identify the steps needed to ensure that the Commonwealth's information technology needs are successfully met. To that end, staff has requested that Mr. Coulter provide us with a cost benefit analysis of the options available to us under the contract. No one should read more into this than a simple interest in being fully informed.

Let me now turn to the issue of contract modifications. While it is within the power of the Chief Information Officer to make modifications to the existing contract before the General Assembly has completed its reviews, doing so in the current environment would be unwise for several reasons. First, in line with JLARC's recommendations the organizational structure of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency is likely to change. Second, these are very difficult economic times, and I shouldn't have to point out that the General Assembly is under no obligation to appropriate additional funds for information technology. Finally, many of you may have noticed that Virginia is about to change its chief executive.

The incoming governor – and the next General Assembly -- should not be saddled with last minute changes to this contract.

I would also suggest that this subcommittee reconvene after the final JLARC report is issued in December. Staff will poll the members over the next few days to schedule this next meeting.

Do any of the members have further comments or suggestions?