

# VIRGINIA

## eVOICE



*Home Builders Association of Virginia*

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## Governor-Elect McDonnell Appoints Connaughton as SOT

Just before Christmas, Governor-Elect McDonnell held a press conference at the General Assembly Building to announce three additional cabinet appointments. Among them was one carryover from the Kaine administration, and two new faces for the Third Floor in the Patrick Henry Building where the Cabinet offices are located.

Bringing the total of retention of Kaine staff to two, McDonnell appointed the current commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Todd Haymore, to the position of Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry. Previously, McDonnell reappointed Secretary of Finance for the Kaine administration, Rick Brown.

Among the new faces in the executive offices will be Lisa Hicks-Thomas serving as Secretary of Administration. Hicks-Thomas worked under McDonnell in the Attorney General's office.

Most notable, however, is the appointment of Sean Connaughton as Secretary of Transportation. A surprise appointment, Connaughton, the former Chair of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, ran against Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling in the 2005 Republican primary. Connaughton also led the U.S. Maritime Administration under President George W. Bush.

During his time on the Prince William Board of Supervisors, Connaughton earned a reputa-



tion for being anti-development. His opinion will play a major role as McDonnell grapples with an aging infrastructure and waning resources to maintain Virginia's roads.

Connaughton has indicated that while serving in Richmond he intends to commute from his home in Prince William daily. Waiting for him upon his arrival in Richmond will be the new Secondary Street Regulations, changes to the 527 regulations, and the new Access Management requirements.

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!**

## EPA Reveals Penalties for Failure to Meet Bay TMDL

In a 12-page letter to Secretary of Natural Resources Preston L. Bryant, the EPA has outlined the penalties for all Bay states, should they fail to meet any standard established by the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Loadings (Bay TMDL).

The Bay TMDL is the new standard that the EPA is creating to improve water quality in the Bay. It is based on a sophisticated computer model that is able to predict changes in nitro-

gen, phosphorous and sediment loadings as a result of numerous factors.

The new penalties range from redirecting EPA grant funding, to full EPA take-over of permitting in the watershed. The letter, dated December 29, 2009, creates a situation where the EPA appears to want to take a more prescriptive approach to the Bay TMDL Implementation than statements that were previously made by EPA employees.

The Implementation Plan is the document that will guide Virginia toward reaching and maintaining its allocation from the TMDL. Representatives from the EPA stated during a stakeholder meeting that the EPA would not interfere, as long as goals were met. The letter states that the EPA will have an evaluation and notification process by which it determines if a state's Implementation Plan is acceptable.