

**FUTURE OF HAMPTON ROADS, INC. (FHR)**  
**Board of Directors**

***RESOLUTION***  
***July 24, 2007***

**WHEREAS**, as Americans and as Virginians, we all live in a democracy which has been won and preserved by the blood, sweat and tears of our forefathers and remains a precious and effective form of government; and

**WHEREAS**, as Americans and as Virginians, we wish to continue to preserve our democratic heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, our democracy is endangered by the decline in participation of its citizens, as seen in public apathy on many fronts, including increasing disinterest in the electoral process and subsequent low voter turnout in state legislative elections and congressional elections, and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia is one of 36 states which permit state legislators to redraw their own House and Senate districts following the census every ten years, and

**WHEREAS**, in Virginia and in other states, the majority of state legislative seats are not even contested by both major parties, and a significant number of legislators regularly win re-election with more than 90% of the vote, and

**WHEREAS**, partisan legislative and congressional redistricting to favor the party in power and incumbents is demonstrably a major factor in this deterioration of citizen involvement in elections, and

**WHEREAS**, our country's founders-notably George Washington and James Madison, among others- warned us of the dangers of failing to control the partisan excesses of political parties, and

**WHEREAS**, 14 states-including Iowa- have adopted a redistricting process which removes the actual drawing of new districts from the hands of state legislators and places it in the hands of bi-partisan or non-partisan entities, and other states are considering doing so, and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Virginia General Assembly have introduced a number of bills and resolutions over the past two years to reform the redistricting process, all of which have been defeated in committee and not allowed even to reach the House or Senate floors, and

**WHEREAS**, the results of partisan redistricting have been seen in the past few sessions of the Virginia General Assembly, which finds it increasingly difficult to reach compromise, and

**WHEREAS**, democracy cannot work without compromise, and The Future of Hampton Roads believes strongly that our democracy **MUST** work,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Future of Hampton Roads strongly supports reform of the legislative redistricting process in Virginia and calls upon all candidates for election to the Virginia General Assembly-in recognition of the importance of the common good- to commit to support of meaningful redistricting reform,

**FURTHER** that the Future of Hampton Roads lend its support to other efforts in Virginia to achieve redistricting reform,

**FURTHER** that this resolution be posted on the FHR website and a copy communicated to the Virginian-Pilot, the Daily Press, and other Hampton Roads news media and to all Hampton Roads legislative candidates.

**DONE, THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2007.**

**Vincent J. Thomas, Chairman**

**Ray Taylor, President**

**Byron E. Tobin, Secretary**

**Harry D. Train II, Treasurer**