

**West Virginia Legislature
Joint Commission on Economic Development**

FINAL REPORT

to

**Joint Committee on Government and Finance
2006 - 2007 Interims
January 9, 2007**

Members

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Senator H. Truman Chafin
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Delegate Bill Proudfoot (nonvoting)
Delegate Sally Susman (nonvoting)
Delegate Ron Walters (nonvoting)

Your Joint Commission on Economic Development was appointed following the 2006 Regular Session of the Legislature. Section 5, Article 3, Chapter 5B of the Code of West Virginia requires that the Commission:

(1) Study the feasibility of establishing common regional configurations for such purposes as local workforce investment areas, regional educational service agencies and for all other purposes the commission considers feasible as well as review the existing levels of cooperation between state and local economic developers;

(2) Study the effectiveness and fiscal impact of incentives for attracting and growing businesses, especially technology-intensive companies; and

(3) Review existing economic and community development resources that would allow the state to successfully compete in the new global economy.

In accordance with these requirements and the authority given to the Commission pursuant to Section 2, Article 3, Chapter 5B of the West Virginia Code to study other economic development issues, Your Commission has met and discussed the assigned topics, as well as the following additional topics:

(1) Reviewed the work of the West Virginia Economic Development Grant Committee created by H.B. 4005 enacted during the 2002 Regular Session and received frequent updates on the status of the grants;

(2) Considered the impact of motorsports in West Virginia as both a venue for recreation and tourism and as a means for economic development;

(3) Visited and/or received information on many of the state's promising economic development ventures, including, but not limited to: the Hatfield-McCoy Trail, Arctic Char Fish Farm, Arch Coal's new facility all in Logan County; Amber View in Fairmont; TTI Technologies Inc. in Wheeling; American Public University System in Charles Town; and the Tamarack Foundation in Beckley;

(4) Explored participation in the 21st Century Jobs Cabinet; and

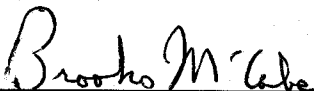
(5) Received updates on the status of the tourism tax credits established in The West Virginia Tourism Development Act.

The Joint Commission on Economic Development **REPORTS** as follows:

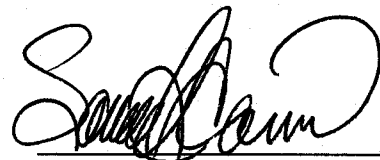
Your Commission **RECOMMENDS** that the Commission continue to receive updates related to the progress of the Economic Grant Committee and its approved grants, and the tourism development tax credits and approved projects.

Your Commission **FURTHER RECOMMENDS** that the following topics be assigned to the Commission for study during the 2007-2008 interim sessions: study of a comprehensive energy policy; study feasibility of separating economic development responsibility out of the Turnpike Authority; continue to study Tamarack and its future direction so as to maximize its impact on the state's economy and consider expanding Tamarack; study feasibility of post-mine uses in the state; and study new coal technologies.

Respectfully Submitted,



Senator Brooks McCabe
Co-Chairman



Delegate Sam Cann
Co-Chairman