COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

RICHMOND

WILLIAM J. HOWELL
SPEAKER

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

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Statement of Speaker William J. Howell

-- on Federal Indictment of former Delegate Hamilton --

RICHMOND, VA – Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell (R-Stafford) today issued the following statement regarding a federal grand jury indictment of former Delegate Phillip A. Hamilton.

"Appropriate ethical conduct of any and all elected officials is essential to safeguarding trust in government by the citizens those officials represent and in whose name they serve. Virginia always has had solid reputation for good government and I want to keep it that way.

"In 2009, I acted to preserve that trust and protect the institutional integrity of the Virginia House of Delegates when I initiated a legislative inquiry into possible violations of the Commonwealth's Conflict of Interest Act by then-Delegate Hamilton. The House Ethics Panel ended their inquiry for lack of statutory jurisdiction following his resignation from the Virginia House of Delegates on November 15, 2009.

"Today's decision by a federal grand jury reflects the seriousness with which I and others viewed the alleged offenses. Accordingly, I trust the judicial system now will do its job and impartially determine the facts and ensure that justice is served. How a public official performs his or her governmental duties must be above reproach and unquestionably within the bounds of law."

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