



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

WILLIAM J. HOWELL
SPEAKER

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 18, 2011

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Statement of Speaker William J. Howell

-- on Delegate Watkins Abbitt's Decision Not to Seek Re-election --

RICHMOND, VA – Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William J. Howell (R-Stafford) today commented on the announcement by Delegate Watkins M. Abbitt, Jr. (R-Appomattox) that he has decided not to seek re-election to the Virginia House of Delegates for a 14th term in November 2011:

“Delegate Abbitt has been a strong and highly effective legislator for more than two decades. His leadership and vision will be missed in the 59th District and around Capitol Square in Richmond. His knowledge, experience and strategic understanding of the legislative process are underscored by so many accomplishments that have strengthened Virginia’s economy, enhanced agricultural production, improved educational achievement and benefited law enforcement and constitutional officers.

“Watkins ably has represented an extremely large and diverse constituency encompassing parts of Albemarle, Appomattox, Buckingham, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Nelson and Prince Edward counties. He always recognized the first and fundamental role of any elected lawmaker -- represent and serve those who elected him. That he did without fail and without seeking attention or accolades for himself. Because of his hard work, he improved the quality of life for his constituents and all Virginians through such achievements as the development of High Bridge Trail State Park in Farmville. As Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government, Watkins has been a stalwart advocate for the law enforcement community. Indeed, his leadership and many talents are widely recognized with him having received a number of awards and distinctions, including being chosen as “Legislator of the Year” by the Fraternal Order of Police.

“Like so many, I join in congratulating Delegate Abbitt for his many years of commendable service to our Commonwealth. Now, he and his wife Madeline can enjoy other pursuits – including a wide variety of outdoors activities – beyond Capitol Square. I wish him continued happiness and success for many more years to come.”

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