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November 6, 2007

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Sen. Warner and Sen. Webb Vote to Support Inter-City Passenger Rail

Washington, DC-- Senators John Warner and Jim Webb voted for passage of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2007, S.294, which was approved by the United States Senate on October 30 by a margin of 70 to 22. S.294 was patroned by Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) along with 41 co-sponsors including Senators Warner and Webb.

This legislation authorizes funding for Amtrak on a six-year cycle instead of the current year-to-year cycle that it has been on since 2003. A key component of this legislation is a federal-state grant program for intercity passenger rail with an 80/20 percent match. Under S.294, the federal-state grant program is authorized for \$1.4 billion in funding over 6 years.

“With dozens of trains running through Virginia every day, and hundreds of thousands of passengers riding our rails every year, I believe that the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2007, will go a long way to increasing capacity, reducing congestion, and bring about reliable, higher-speed passenger rail service in Virginia.” said Lois Walker, president of Virginians for High Speed Rail, *“The state grant program is very important to Virginia, as we work to add the third rail on the Washington to Richmond rail corridor that will create much needed capacity for VRE, Amtrak, and CSX.”*

“The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2007, has now been sent to the House of Representatives,” continued Lois Walker *“we strongly encourage our House of Representatives delegation to join Senator Warner and Senator Webb, and support this legislation. Millions of Virginians from accross the Commonwealth will be better served with more transportation options by the enactment of this legislation.”*

“I am proud to be a Virginian who has two senators who realize the importance of intercity passenger rail, and who are willing to be leaders in our fight to ease congestion, promote economic development and conservation, and increase our national security. Thank you Senator Warner and Senator Webb for your leadership and support on the rail issue” said Lois Walker.

Virginians for High Speed Rail is a 501 © (3) non-profit, that educates, advocates, and promotes rail transportation as an energy-efficient, environmentally friendly, mode of transportation for which there is a substantial and growing market, as reflected by user trends, and unmet demand, in both freight and passenger transport.

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