



**News from the Office of
Congressman Rob Wittman**
First District, Virginia



Congressman Rob Wittman's Weekly Washington Update
June 6, 2008

I am pleased update you on legislation I introduced that would allow Virginia to limit the amount of trash it receives from other states. I introduced H.R. 6166, the Solid Waste Interstate Transportation Act of 2008, legislation that would give localities and states control over the importation of interstate waste.

Virginia should have the ability to say "no" to trash shipments from out-of-state. Being one of the national leaders in garbage imports is not something to be proud of. H.R. 6166 would give states and localities a say in how to manage interstate waste.

Virginia is the nation's second largest importer of out-of-state trash. According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia imported more than 7 million tons of waste from other states in 2007. During 2006 the total solid waste imports into the Commonwealth increased by 3.5% over 2005 amounts. Campaign Virginia, a non-profit organization estimates that Virginia's trash imports could rise to 10 million tons within the next few years. Under current law states do not have the ability to limit the importation of interstate waste.

I am proud to carry on the efforts by Rep. Davis to try and curb trash imports and change Virginia's reputation as a dump site for waste from Baltimore, New York and the District of Columbia.

Rep. Davis fought tirelessly to clean-up Virginia, by taking dangerous trash trucks off the road and ending Virginia's reputation as a dump site for waste from Baltimore and the District of Columbia. I am pleased to carry on the fight for a cleaner Virginia.

Specifically, H.R. 6166 will give localities greater control over limiting waste by granting them import control over smaller landfill facilities. Under this legislation, if a landfill receives less than 100,000 tons of municipal solid waste a year, local governments will have the option to limit imports.

Under H.R. 6166, states will also have greater influence over imports to landfills that take-in over 100,000 tons of waste a year. For example, states will have the ability to cap the percentage of out-of-state waste processed by these facilities. The state legislature would determine what percentage can be imported from out of state into the facilities.

My legislation has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. I look forward to working with my colleagues to support this important measure that will give Virginia and other states more control to limit trash imports. Without action by Congress Virginia will have little choice but to remain a favorite dumping ground for out-of-state trash.

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