



**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE VIRGINIA  
COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY SUPPORTING  
COMPLETION OF THE COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY**

WHEREAS, the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority (the “Authority”) was formed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2017 to improve the transportation into, from, within, and through Southwest Virginia, assist in regional economic development, and generally enhance highway safety in the affected localities of Southwest Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, the Coalfields Expressway, designated as U.S. Route 121 and a Congressional High Priority Corridor, is a proposed limited-access highway to provide a modern, safe, and efficient transportation artery through the coalfields region of far Southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, the state of West Virginia recently opened the first leg of the Coalfields Expressway in that state, however Virginia has no sections of the Coalfields Expressway funded or under construction except for a shared section with U.S. 460 in Buchanan County; and,

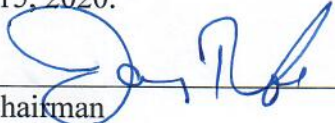
WHEREAS, the completion of the Coalfields Expressway will open up new areas for economic development, including new business and industrial sites and improved access to existing business and industrial parks, thereby making the region much more competitive for economic development projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Coalfields Expressway will allow the region’s citizens much better access to employment, educational, workforce development, and health care opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the Coalfields Expressway is absolutely critical to the economic development and diversification of the region, the economy of which has been decimated by the decline in the coal mining industry; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the importance of the Coalfields Expressway to the economic development of far Southwest Virginia, the Board of the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority does hereby urge the Commonwealth of Virginia and the federal government to do all that they can to cause the completion of the Coalfields Expressway in Virginia in as expeditious manner as possible for the benefit of the Commonwealth’s citizens in far Southwest Virginia.

ADOPTED at a meeting of the Board of the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority held on December 15, 2020.

  
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Jay Rife, Chairman

  
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Jonathan Belcher, Executive Director