



Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce  
**Economic Development Council**  
c/o Aaron Bushong  
Bushong Contracting Corporation  
279 Wetzel Road  
Woodstock, VA 22664

March 11, 2021

Mr. Steven A. Baker, Chairman  
Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors  
1341 Conicville Road  
Mt. Jackson, VA 22842

Dear Mr. Baker,

I write on behalf of the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce **Economic Development Council (EDC)**.

As you know, the EDC has been keenly focused on the expansion and diversification of the County's tax since formation. In order to advance the initiative in alignment with the Economic Development Strategic Plan (previously adopted by the Board of Supervisors and supported by a diverse group of community citizens), we believe it is paramount to approve the **Business Retention and Expansion Coordinator** position in the FY2022 budget. This position will support the retention and expansion of existing businesses, while also recruiting new business investment to Shenandoah County.

We appreciate the challenges presented by current economic conditions and budget constraints. However, we remain strong in our conviction...investments in economic development are essential to building a diversified tax base. Properly managed investments in economic development will not only pay for themselves, they will also help pay for non-revenue generating positions that provide key services to our citizens. As discussed previously, investments in economic development take time to drive results and revenue. Every year we defer this position and other investments in economic development, we are simply deferring tax diversity and growth. It is time to invest in economic development.

We respectfully ask for your support and approval of the Business Retention and Expansion Coordinator in FY2022. Please let me know if you would like to discuss the request further or if I can assist in another matter.

Sincerely,

Aaron Bushong, Chairman  
Economic Development Council

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Letter, Mr. Steven A. Baker, Chairman  
Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors  
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**Sarah Cohen, Council Member  
Route 11 Potato Chips**

**Dennis A. Dysart, Council Member  
First Bank**

**Jim Guisewhite, Council Member  
SVN**

**Bill Holtzman, Council Member  
Holtzman Oil & Propane**

**Dexter Mumaw, Council Member  
Cabin Hill Homes**

**Kelly Sager, Council Member  
Sager Real Estate**

**Keith Stephens, Council Member  
Gateway Hospitality**

**cc: Evan Vass, County Administrator  
Jenna French, Director of Tourism and Economic Development**