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Virginia Chamber Recognizes Delegate Mike Watson with *Freshman Legislator of the Year Award* and *Champion of Free Enterprise Award*

RICHMOND, VA (April 18, 2012)—The Virginia Chamber of Commerce today recognized Delegate Mike Watson with *The Freshman Legislator of the Year Award*, which recognizes the newly elected legislators who displayed a passion for and an understanding of the issues facing Virginia’s business community during their first session. Delegate Watson also received the *Champion of Free Enterprise Award*, which is given to legislators who earned a 100% and a grade of A+ for their voting record with the Chamber during the 2012 session.

Also on Wednesday, the Virginia Chamber released its 2012 Legislative Report Card. In addition to grading legislators based on their pro-business voting record, the Legislative Awards recognize legislators for their support on initiatives that will keep Virginia as the best state in the nation for business.

“The Legislative Report Card allows us to recognize and honor legislators who uphold free market principles and support the interests of the business community,” said Barry DuVal, President and CEO of the Virginia Chamber. “In addition, it provides analysis of a legislator’s support for the business community’s priorities.”

For a PDF version of the 2012 Legislative Report Card, please visit www.vachamber.com.

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce is the state’s largest business advocacy organization with more than 13,000 members. As the voice for business, the Chamber works in the legislative, regulatory and political arenas to act as a catalyst for enhancing Virginia’s economic competitiveness and pro-business climate.

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