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March 8, 2022

To:

Keith Harless, Town Manager  
528 Industrial Drive  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277

RE: TOWN OF PENNINGTON CONVENTION/BUSINESS CENTER

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Town of Pennington Gap's proposed convention/business center located at 528 Industrial Drive.

Mountain Empire's Small Business Development Center assists businesses in Lee County, Virginia on a regular basis. The LENOWISCO area is broad and a convention/business center in Pennington Gap would provide these businesses with a convenient and accessible location for SBDC training and workshops and one-on-one consulting.

The shortage of large meeting spaces, other than using a local high school gymnasium, limits the opportunities for hosting a convention or large conference. Currently, Lee County business owners have to travel at least an hour to attend any type of workshop or convention. The Town of Pennington Gap has a space that addresses multiple needs in the community and surrounding areas that will meet the need for a large conference center or several meeting spaces.

Mountain Empire's Small Business Development Center supports the Town of Pennington Gap's efforts in applying for Congressionally Directed Spending (also known as "Community Project Funding") to provide financial support to assist in re-developing this space as proposed. This project will allow the Town of Pennington Gap to directly be involved with a redevelopment project that repurposes a space that was formally used as a call center and has not been used for multiple years. If awarded, the SBDC will support the Town's work to the best of my ability.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to share my support for this exciting project.

*Becki O'Quinn-Purdie*

Becki O'Quinn-Purdie  
Director, Small Business Development Center  
Phillips-Taylor Hall  
Mountain Empire Community College  
Big Stone Gap, Virginia 24219  
[boquinn@mecc.edu](mailto:boquinn@mecc.edu)

# LENOWISCO PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

March 9, 2023

Mr. Keith Harless  
Town Manager  
Town of Pennington Gap, Virginia  
528 Industrial Drive  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277

RE: Town of Pennington Gap Convention Center

Dear Mr. ~~Harless~~: **Keith**

I am writing in support of your application for FY24 Congressionally Directed Spending via Senators Warner and Kaine. The proposed convention/business center, in cooperation with Lee County, will generate an immediate and needed benefit to the region. I would like to offer my support of the project.

The Town of Pennington Gap Convention Center would help address the lack of large meeting spaces in Southwest Virginia. The proposed repurposing of the former call center would be the most cost efficient and effective way of utilizing the structure as it sits today. It would provide the town and surrounding communities a single facility that could meet business, government and community demands of varying needs.

I feel all partners involved are dedicated to the betterment of the region and the Commonwealth as a whole. I support the application and urge favorable consideration by Senator Warner and Senator Kaine. Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this much needed project.

Sincerely,



DUANE A. MILLER  
Executive Director



372 Technology Trail Lane, Suite 101 • Duffield VA 24244  
Phone (276) 431-2206 • Fax (276) 431-2208  
LENOWISCO@LENOWISCO.org • www.LENOWISCO.org

*Virginia Planning District One • Serving Lee-Norton-Wise-Scott*



March 7, 2023

To:  
Keith Harless, Town Manager  
528 Industrial Drive  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277

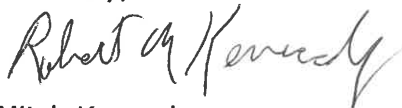
RE: TOWN OF PENNINGTON CONVENTION/BUSINESS CENTER

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Town of Pennington Gap's proposed convention/business center located at 528 Industrial Dr.

As in many areas of Southwest Virginia, there is a shortage of large meeting spaces other than using a local high school gymnasium which is not suitable for hosting a convention or large conference. The Town of Pennington Gap has a space that addresses multiple needs in the community and surrounding areas that will meet the need for a large conference center or several meeting spaces. The hospital only has two small meeting rooms on campus and often we are trying to host events for the community groups due to lack of other options. There are times also that we would need such a space for events of our own to invite the public for information sessions. We usually resort to having the function/meeting outdoors due to lack of spaces to safely congregate.

I look forward to supporting the Town of Pennington Gap's efforts in applying for Congressionally Directed Spending (also known as "Community Project Funding") to provide financial support to assist in re-developing this space as proposed. This project will allow the Town of Pennington Gap to directly be involved with a redevelopment project that repurposes a space that was formally used as a call center and has not been used for multiple years. If awarded, I will support the Town's work to the best of my ability. Thank you for providing this opportunity to share my support for this exciting project.

Sincerely,



Mitch Kennedy  
AVP/Administrator  
Lee County Community Hospital



# LEE COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 367  
Jonesville, VA 24263



Telephone: 276-346-7766  
Fax: 276-346-4016  
Richard Johnson II • Director

March 7, 2023

To:  
Keith Harless, Town Manager  
528 Industrial Drive  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277

RE: TOWN OF PENNINGTON CONVENTION/BUSINESS CENTER

It is my pleasure to support the Town of Pennington Gap's proposed convention/business center located at 528 Industrial Dr.

As in many areas of Southwest Virginia, there is a shortage in our community of large-scale meeting spaces other than local school gymnasiums which are not suited for hosting a convention or large conference. The Town of Pennington Gap has identified a space that addresses multiple needs in the community and surrounding areas that will also accommodate the need for a large conference center or break-out meeting spaces.

I look forward to supporting the Town of Pennington Gap's efforts in applying for Congressionally Directed Spending (also known as "Community Project Funding") to provide financial support to assist in re-developing this space as proposed. This project will allow the Town of Pennington Gap and Lee County to directly be involved with a redevelopment project that repurposes the space formally used as a call center and vacated many years ago.

If awarded, we will support the Town's work to the best of our ability. Thank you for providing this opportunity to share my support for this much needed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Johnson II", is written over a white background.

Richard Johnson II  
Community Development Director  
County of Lee



# VIRGINIA COALFIELD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 1060  
527 East Main Street  
Lebanon, Virginia 24266



Telephone: 276/889-0381  
Fax: 276/889-1830  
Jonathan S. Belcher • Executive Director

March 7, 2023

To:

Keith Harless, Town Manager  
528 Industrial Drive  
Pennington Gap, VA 24277

RE: TOWN OF PENNINGTON CONVENTION/BUSINESS CENTER

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Belcher".

Jonathan Belcher

Executive Director

