

SENATOR MARK WARNER
VAPDC Legislator of the Year Award
May 3, 2018

On behalf of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions, it is my great pleasure to present the Legislator of the Year Award to Senator Mark Warner. This award was created to recognize public officials who support regional collaboration and are actively engaged in public policy efforts that advance economic prosperity in the Commonwealth.

A little about Planning District Commissions, known as PDCs. There are 21 PDCs in Virginia made up of elected officials and citizens appointed by local governments. The purpose of PDCS is to encourage and facilitate regional solutions to problems of area-wide significance.

We work with our local governments by providing high-quality planning, technical assistance and facilitation services to help them plan for the future, deliver critical infrastructure, stimulate the economy and enhance the lives of the citizens and businesses in their communities.

PDCs across the Commonwealth have benefited from Senator Warner's outstanding leadership and contribution to the projects and programs that we work on everyday like:

Bringing in over \$1M dollars in Homeland Security funds to the Hampton Roads region

Ensuring that Broadband reaches our most rural and remote communities like those on the Eastern Shore and in the Alleghany-Highlands region

Supporting economic development and tourism programs like the Crooked Road in Southwest Virginia and The Tobacco Heritage Trail in Southside Virginia.

Here in our region, the Central Shenandoah PDC region, Senator Warner has been supportive of our Agritourism program known as Fields of Gold that provides business support to our small farmers and agritourism operators to help them grow their business.

Fields of Gold also promotes the Shenandoah Valley as premier agritourism destination and now has over 230 farms and ag-related business on its Farm Trail.

The Senator was also instrumental in helping the Highland Center in Monterey, VA fund the renovation of their old school building turning it into a vibrant business incubator center.

About this Award and where it has been over the last 3 Months. In early February, the VAPDC made the award at its Winter Conference in Richmond. Unfortunately, the Senator was unable to attend the event. So, the award went home with my colleague to South Boston, VA. We then made arrangements to present it at another event in Washington, DC in March.

So, the Award traveled by train to Arlington, and then to Capital Hill in DC by Metro. I think it even hopped on Uber. Unfortunately, an unexpected snow storm prevented us again from

presenting the Award to Senator Warner, so it then traveled back by train to South Boston. Earlier this week I met my colleague in Richmond and picked up the award and brought it to the Shenandoah Valley.

So just like this award, Senator Warner travels all across our great Commonwealth and in our Nation's capital working hard to make our communities and regions a better place to live work and play. So, it is my great pleasure to finally present this award in person to Senator Mark Warner here today.