



# Randy Forbes

## & Southside Virginia

### A Partnership for Local Solutions



#### Addressing Flooding in Chowan River Basin

Congressman Forbes has been a key champion in Congress to address the serious and unexpected flooding in the Chowan River Basin. In many locations within the Chowan River basin, unexpected flooding has destroyed local homes, businesses, churches, and shut down major transportation routes. The damage from these storms has ranged from \$10 million to over \$100 million. Congressman Forbes has worked to authorize a study to evaluate ways to protect the water resources of this highly productive basin, to restore wetlands and forested buffers lost from erosion and flooding, and to reduce flood damages throughout the basin. Congressman Forbes is now working to appropriate the funds for the project, the second step in funding federal projects.



#### Ensuring a Voice for Southside in the Site Placement of an Outlying Landing Field

Congressman Forbes has worked to ensure that localities targeted for potential placement of an Outlying Landing Field are fairly represented, provided accurate information, and appropriately heard in the Navy's process of determining a OLF site. Congressman Forbes has stated that he will not support the placement of an OLF in Southampton or Sussex if a locality determines that they do not want it there.



#### Supporting Our Farmers and Farming Heritage

Congressman Forbes has been a steadfast supporter of Virginia's farmers in Congress. He was one of only 19 Republicans to put aside partisan differences and vote in favor of passage of the Farm Bill out of the U.S. House of Representatives. The farm bill is a critical piece of legislation that supports and sustains America's agricultural industry and is key in supplying our nation with an adequate food supply and protecting America's food security. Congressman Forbes has consistently voted to support Virginia's farming industry, to continue our farmers' access to financing through local credit unions, and to uphold our agricultural heritage.



### **Funding Broadband Technology for Economic Development**

Congressman Forbes has worked to secure funding for over 300 miles of fiber optic broadband cable to connect counties and industrial parks in Southside Virginia including the City of Emporia, County of Greenville, the Emporia Industrial Park and Greenville County Industrial Park via an open access broadband communications network designed to promote economic development in the Southside Virginia region.



### **Fighting to Address Unique Rural Health Care Needs**

Rural areas face unique issues related to access to doctors, hospitals, and other health resources due to unavailability of resources or transportation barriers. Congressman Forbes is a member of the bipartisan Congressional Rural Health Care Coalition (RHCC), a coalition of Members of Congress committed to advancing rural priorities in health care policy. As a member of the RHCC, Congressman Forbes works on health care issues in rural populations such as access to care, supply of primary care physicians, health promotion and disease prevention, health care technology, and organization of services for low population density areas.



### **Working to Secure Funding for Southside Workforce Development Center**

Congressman Forbes is working to secure funding for a workforce development and employment training center in Southside. The funding would contribute to economic revitalization of the area by enhancing the usefulness of the current training facility for businesses and others and by bringing in conferences, trade shows, job fairs, tourism related events, and social events that the community can not currently accommodate.



### **Conserving Environmental Treasures of Southside Virginia**

Congressman Randy Forbes has teamed up with the Nature Conservancy to seek funding for a project to protect 4,000 acres and 11.5 miles of river frontage along the Blackwater and Nottoway rivers to conserve and protect environmental treasures in the area.



### **Equipping Southside Law Enforcement and First Responders**

Our communities are most safe when our local law enforcement and first responders have the best technology equipment. Congressman Forbes has worked to bring federal dollars for technology improvements for area law enforcements such as laptop computers, in-car cameras, and hardware and software upgrades. He has also worked to secure funding to be used to increase the effectiveness of area firefighting operations, firefighter health and safety programs, new fire apparatus, emergency medical service programs, and fire prevention and safety programs.