



February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger  
United States House of Representatives  
562 Cannon Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Spanberger,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce's members in support of Northern Virginia Community College's request for congressionally directed spending. Specifically, the Chamber asks that you support NOVA's request for funding to expand its Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program (AIR).

There is a need in our region for upskilling of all kinds and in particular the skilled trades. NOVA believes it can expand its current offerings on HVAC technician degrees and certifications to meet the growing need in Northern Virginia. Marketplace analytics project that, on top of this current shortage, there will be an annual average of 1,360 job openings for HVAC technicians in our region alone over the next decade.

This missing component of our workforce is especially evident in the shortage of skilled technicians to service and support the current and planned growth of the commercial data center market. This industry relies on major cooling systems as an integral part of both facility construction and mission-critical maintenance. NOVA's service region has the largest data center market in the United States. In fact, as of 2021, the data center inventory in Northern Virginia exceeds that of the next five largest world markets combined. Also, HVAC technicians are essential to service and support the growth of new and affordable housing in our diverse service area.

The Chamber strongly supports this timely opportunity for the College to do even more to fill additional critical employment and community service needs.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Clemente  
Vice President of Government Relations  
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

