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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**VMA's Vassey, Tilley appointed to Manufacturing Development Commission**  
*New appointments announced by Governor McDonnell*

**Richmond, VA** – Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) President and CEO Brett Vassey and VMA Board member Scott Tilley were among four appointees to Virginia's Manufacturing Development Commission (MDC) announced today by Governor Bob McDonnell. Tilley is General Counsel for STIHL Inc. in Virginia Beach and is completing his first year as a VMA Board member. Joining Tilley and Vassey as MDC appointees in Friday's announcement are Jerry Robertson, Associate Vice President/Executive Director of the Old Dominion University (ODU) Business Gateway, and David R. Lohr, President and Executive Director of the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM).

"Developing the legislation to create the Manufacturing Development Commission was one of my fondest personal achievements at the VMA," reflects Vassey. "Being reappointed to the Commission by Governor McDonnell is an honor. Having another VMA Director, Scott Tilley of STIHL Inc., appointed to the Commission will give us even greater opportunities to make reforms to improve manufacturing competitiveness in the Commonwealth."

The purpose of the Manufacturing Development Commission is to assess needs and formulate legislative and regulatory remedies to ensure the future of the manufacturing sector. The Commission is chaired by Senator Frank Wagner (R) of Virginia Beach and is made up of 14 members, including 3 Senators, 5 Delegates and 5 citizen members with Secretary of Commerce and Trade Jim Cheng as an ex-officio member. Three legislative member seats are currently up for grabs after the recent elections.

The Commission's next hearing will be co-located with the 2011 Virginia Industry Leadership Forum to be held at The Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville December 8-9<sup>th</sup>. The MDC hearing will be from 10am-noon on Thursday, December 8 in the Executive Boardroom of The Boar's Head Pavilion and is open to the public.

For more information about Virginia's Manufacturing Development Commission, please visit <http://dls.virginia.gov/manufacturing.htm>. For more information about the 2011 Virginia Industry Leadership Forum, please visit <http://www.vamanufacturers.com/forum/2011/index.php>.

**About the VMA**

The Virginia Manufacturers Association has been *Industry's Advocate* in the Commonwealth since 1922. The VMA develops and advocates for constructive public policies and supports a broad array of business services and programs to help ensure that Virginia manufacturing companies can be productive, profitable and competitive in Virginia. Virginia's 5,000+ manufacturers employ over 200,000 individuals, contribute \$34 billion to the gross state product, and account for over 80% of the state's exports to the global economy. Visit [www.vamanufacturers.com](http://www.vamanufacturers.com) for more information.