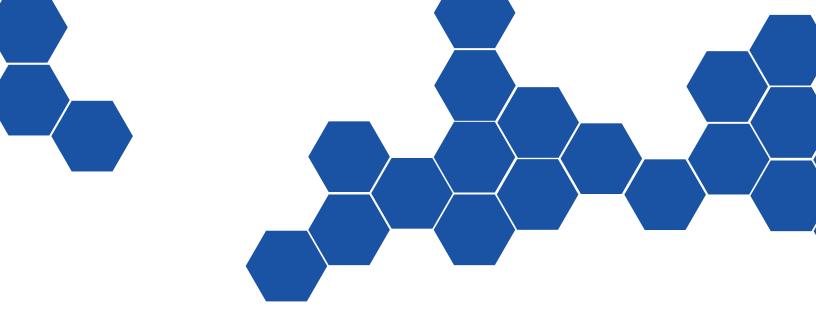


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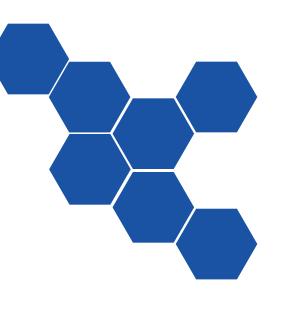
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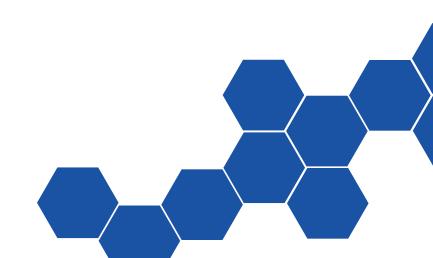
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### From Rep. Abigail Spanberger

Dear Seventh District Neighbors,

Conversations are at the heart of our civic life. They help us navigate uncertain times, negotiate differences in opinion, and build lasting connections with others in our community.

Conversations have been crucial during my first year in the U.S. House. Conversations with Members on both sides of the aisle have led to some of my biggest legislative achievements, and listening to Central Virginians remains the most important part of this job.

As your Representative, I've tried to bring transparency and accountability to the job every day. In my first year, I've held 12 public, county-wide town halls—with at least one in each of our 10 counties. Additionally, I've hosted "Coffee with Your Congressperson" events across our district; convened several issue-focused community forums; engaged in multiple issue-specific district tours focused on education, healthcare, and agriculture; held 17 mobile office hour sessions; and responded to more than 57,000 messages from constituents on a wide range of topics. Going into 2020, I'll continue to listen to my constituents and invite their feedback, whether we agree on every issue or not.

As you read this report, I hope you'll take a moment to learn more about my legislative accomplishments this year, as well as my outreach across Central Virginia. From working to lower the cost of prescription drugs for our seniors to focusing on the need for increased high-speed internet in many of our district's communities, I'll keep embracing every opportunity to engage in conversations about expanding opportunity, making healthcare affordable, and strengthening our communities for the next generation.

Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have feedback to share, a question to ask, or a problem we can help address. I am honored to begin another year of serving Central Virginia.

Thank you,

Abigail D. Spanberger

Aligned & O Granderge



### From VA-07 Constituents

This year, Rep. Spanberger has **helped more than 680 constituents resolve issues with the federal government** — from receiving backlogged VA benefits to dealing with the Social Security Administration. Here's what a few Central Virginians had to say after reaching out to Rep. Spanberger's office for assistance:

"I would like to commend the staff of Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger. After a frustrating 14 months waiting for federal retirement benefits to be awarded through the Office of Personnel Management, [Rep. Spanberger's staff] was able to secure these benefits in eight days. I am impressed with their commitment to my case and their persistence in resolving this matter for me."

#### SPOTSYLVANIA RESIDENT

"Congresswoman Spanberger—I want to express my sincere gratitude for the time and attention that was provided assisting me. I realize how busy you must be and know that it took a lot of time to process my requests."

#### MIDLOTHIAN RESIDENT

"The Congresswoman's office was very helpful in giving me advice on what to do in dealing with SSA, contacting SSA for information, and following up with me to track the status of my case with SSA."

#### HENRICO RESIDENT

"My son is autistic and was receiving Social Security benefits until his payments were arbitrarily stopped. The Social Security Administration also demanded repayment of 18 months' payments. Ms. Spanberger launched an investigation which resulted in his benefits retroactively being reinstated."

#### SPOTSYLVANIA RESIDENT

### Keeping Our Communities Safe





#### Spanberger's Bipartisan Border Security Bill Signed into Law by President Trump

Rep. Spanberger introduced legislation alongside U.S. Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX-23) to combat Central American trafficking and smuggling networks that threaten U.S. border security. The legislation—which helps address the root causes of drug trafficking, human trafficking, and illegal migration—was signed into law by the President in December. In July, Rep. Spanberger visited the United States-Mexico border to learn more about the ongoing humanitarian and security crisis. (CBS19,12/23/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 7/22/19)

#### Spanberger's Bill to Combat Child Pornography Becomes Law

Rep. Spanberger introduced a bipartisan amendment alongside U.S. Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC-11) to combat the sharing of child pornography on government-associated networks. The bill—which was signed into law by President Trump in December—will upgrade the training and technical capacity of military criminal investigative organizations to confront the misuse of Defense Department networks to access and trade these horrific images. (CNN, 7/2/19; Rep. Spanberger, 7/15/19; Rep. Spanberger, 12/23/19)

#### Spanberger's Bill to Protect Against Foreign Cyberattacks Passes Two Key Committees

In May, Rep. Spanberger led the introduction of a bipartisan bill to protect 5G communications infrastructure in the face of threats from foreign companies like China's Huawei. The bill has now passed two key House committees. "If we aren't actively working to strengthen our resilience against these threats—especially as we see the growing adoption of these technologies in our rural communities and increasing reliance on these high-speed connections—we are putting American families, businesses, and consumer data at risk," said Rep. Spanberger. (CBS News, 5/23/19; Executive Gov, 11/25/19)

#### Spanberger Passes Bipartisan Gun Violence Prevention Legislation

In February, Rep. Spanberger joined a bipartisan group of her colleagues in passing legislation that would close existing loopholes and apply the same background check-standard equally to all firearm purchases. "As a former federal law enforcement agent who carried a firearm every day on the job, I understand the responsibility of gun ownership," said Rep. Spanberger. "After far too many gun violence tragedies across the United States, including in our schools, offices, and places of worship, we are long overdue for bipartisan gun safety reform." (Rep. Spanberger, 2/27/19)

#### Spanberger Votes to Protect Central Virginia Consumers from Robocalls & Phone Scams

Rep. Spanberger helped pass bipartisan legislation that would give Central Virginia consumers the tools they need to block spam robocalls. In November 2019 alone, Virginians received more than 141 million robocalls. The bipartisan TRACED Act, which was signed into law in December, will help end a growing pattern of dangerous, disruptive, and illegal robocalls. "In Virginia, we've seen a drastic uptick of annoying and abusive robocalls," said Rep. Spanberger. "These calls are more than a nuisance—they can lead to identity theft, block emergency operations, or spread fraudulent information to seniors. (Rep. Spanberger, 12/4/19)

#### House Passes Rep. Spanberger's Amendment to Shed Light on Foreign Ads

In October, the House passed Rep. Spanberger's amendment to increase transparency regarding online political advertisements purchased by foreign actors. According to a new report, the number of countries engaged in disinformation campaigns more than doubled to 70 in the last two years. Rep. Spanberger's amendment would require online platforms to include information about whether a buyer is acting as the agent of a foreign government or foreign political party. (Rep. Spanberger, 10/23/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 10/24/2019)

#### Spanberger Visits U.S. Servicemembers Stationed Abroad

In October, Rep. Spanberger joined a bipartisan congressional delegation trip to Turkey, Afghanistan, and the Syrian-Jordanian border to meet with the dedicated U.S. servicemembers stationed in these areas. Following her return, Rep. Spanberger expressed deep concern about Turkey's incursion into Northern Syria and its aggression against the Kurdish people—and she joined two bipartisan sanctions bills to hold Turkey accountable for its actions against U.S.-allied forces in the region. (Virginia Public Media, 10/7/19; Rep. Spanberger, 10/24/19)



## Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs & Protecting Healthcare Coverage





### Spanberger's Bipartisan Bill to Increase Transparency in the Prescription Drug Industry Passes Unanimously

In October, the House voted 403 to 0 to pass Rep. Spanberger's bipartisan bill to hold pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) accountable for their role in the prescription drug affordability crisis. At a community-focused roundtable held in August, Rep. Spanberger heard from patients and pharmacists about how the three largest PBMs in the United States control three-quarters of the U.S. prescription drug supply chain. However, Americans are currently unable to learn more about how PBMs could be triggering rising drug prices and out-of-pocket costs. Rep. Spanberger's Public Disclosure of Drug Discounts Act would help hold PBMs accountable by requiring PBMs to report their aggregate rebates, discounts, and other price concessions to a public website. (Henrico Citizen, 8/7/19; Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 11/14/19)

#### Spanberger Hears Directly from Henrico County Seniors about Skyrocketing Drug Prices

The rising cost of lifesaving prescription drugs has been a top concern raised by constituents since Rep. Spanberger took office in January. In November, Rep. Spanberger hosted a prescription drug forum in Henrico County alongside AARP Virginia to discuss the impacts of high prescription drug prices in Central Virginia. "At our prescription drug forum in Henrico, I heard a familiar refrain—prescription drug costs are far too high, and they're seriously jeopardizing the financial security of our seniors," said Rep. Spanberger. (WWBT, 11/26/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 11/28/19; Rep. Spanberger, 11/29/19; Henrico Citizen, 12/18/19)

#### Rep. Spanberger Votes to Give Medicare the Power to Negotiate Drug Prices

Between 2012 and 2017, the average annual cost of prescription drug treatments in Virginia increased by nearly 60 percent, while the annual income for Virginians only increased by 8.5 percent. Following her Henrico County prescription drug forum, Rep. Spanberger joined Democrats and Republicans in passing the Lower Drug Costs Now Act, which would give Medicare the power to negotiate directly with drug companies. In VA-07, more than 96,000 people are enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan. The Rep. Spanberger-cosponsored bill would expand Medicare benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing coverage—and it would establish a new \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drug costs for individuals on Medicare. (Rep. Spanberger, 12/12/19; Culpeper-Star-Exponent, 12/12/19; WRIC 12/13/19)

### Spanberger Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Encourage Drug Industry Competition & Boost Access to Lower-Cost Medication

In October, Rep. Spanberger joined U.S. Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY-23) in leading a bill to stop harmful practices that block new generic alternatives from entering the consumer market. By increasing patent transparency in the prescription drug market, Rep. Spanberger's Biologic Patent Transparency Act would promote competition between biosimilars and established biologic medicines—and these provisions would help lower drug prices for Central Virginia consumers. And earlier this year, Rep. Spanberger cosponsored and helped pass the CREATES Act, which would level the playing field for generic drugs in the United States. (Rep. Spanberger, 5/16/19; Rep. Spanberger, 10/23/19)

### Spanberger Fights Back Against Efforts to Strip Protections for Central Virginians with Pre-Existing Conditions

Since arriving in the U.S. House, Rep. Spanberger has continued to push back against the partisan healthcare attacks that have caused premiums and uninsured rates to increase across the country. According to the Urban Institute, 642,000 Virginians would lose health insurance coverage if the existing healthcare law is repealed. In May, Rep. Spanberger supported the Protecting Americans with Pre-Existing Conditions Act, which would immediately rescind the administration's guidance regarding protections for people with pre-existing conditions in State Innovation Waivers. And in June, she voted in support of a bipartisan resolution to condemn the administration's active legal campaign to gut the existing healthcare law. (Rep. Spanberger, 5/9/19; CNN, 7/11/19; Rep. Spanberger, 7/11/19)

#### Spanberger Secures Strengthened Investment in Alzheimer's Disease Research

This year, Rep. Spanberger was part of a successful push to increase investment in the nationwide effort to combat and treat Alzheimer's disease. After hearing directly from constituents and loved ones of constituents currently grappling with the heartbreaking effects this tragic disease, she helped sign into law an additional \$350 million toward fighting and eventually curing Alzheimer's. (12/18/19)









### Putting the People of Central Virginia First



#### Spanberger Returns More than \$730,000 to VA-07 Constituents in 2019

In 2019, Rep. Spanberger and her staff successfully returned more than \$730,000 to the people of VA-07 through federal casework. "The federal government should be working on behalf of the people, not the other way around," said Rep. Spanberger. "Since January, my office has been focused on helping constituents navigate the federal bureaucracy, receive backlogged benefits, and cut through red tape. I look forward to continuing these much-needed efforts in 2020." If you are in need of assistance, please reach out to Rep. Spanberger's team at (804) 401-4110 or go to https://spanberger.house.gov/forms/casework/ (Rep. Spanberger, 12/31/19)

#### Spanberger Fights to Protect Federal Workers, End the Record-Long Government Shutdown

Upon swearing-in, Rep. Spanberger entered Congress amid a government shutdown. Days later, she went to the White House to meet directly with President Trump to discuss border security and the shutdown's harmful impacts on federal workers in VA-07. During this time, she also introduced bipartisan legislation to protect pay for servicemembers and law enforcement personnel whose salaries were endangered during the shutdown. Upon the reopening of the government, she introduced her first bill—the Stop STUPIDITY Act—which would help prevent similar shutdowns and incentivize lawmakers to make progress before funding lapses begin. (Richmond Times-Dispatch, 1/15/19; Washington Post, 1/16/19; WWBT 2/14/19)

#### Spanberger Uses Role as Chair to Highlight Voices & Priorities of Central Virginians

In January, Rep. Spanberger was selected to serve as Chair of the House Agriculture Committee's Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee. In this leadership role, she has worked to amplify the voices of Central Virginia farmers and local give crop and livestock producers a seat at the table in the federal decision-making process. In October, she brought Dustin Madison—a farmer and crop consultant from Louisa—to discuss how farmers can use precision ag tools to achieve both tangible conservation benefits and increased yields. "I'd like to thank Congresswoman Spanberger for her continued focus on the intersection of the farm issues and conservation issues in Central Virginia," said Madison. (WWBT,10/22/19; Rep. Spanberger, 10/22/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 10/23/19)

#### Spanberger Honors Long-Time Midlothian Resident & World War II Codebreaker

In November, Rep. Spanberger introduced legislation to rename a Chesterfield County post office after World War II code breaker and former Midlothian resident Dorothy Bruce, who passed away at the age of 99 earlier this year. Bruce was recruited by the U.S. military during World War II to serve in a top-secret group of code-breaking women. The post office is located at 1201 Sycamore Square Drive in Midlothian—near Spring Arbor Assisted Living, where Dorothy lived. (Chesterfield Observer, 11/13/19)

### Spanberger Pushes Back Against Misguided Effort to Eliminate MFP Payments to Central Virginia Farmers

In September, Rep. Spanberger pushed back against an effort by other House Members to block continued Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments to American farmers that offset the negative side-effects of the administration's trade wars. Alongside fellow Members of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Spanberger wrote, "We cannot and will not allow our farmers to be used as political pawns and will wholeheartedly resist any efforts intended to stop or delay these planned payments while farm families are fighting for their economic survival." The MFP payments were preserved in the final version of the funding bill. (The Fence Post, 9/19/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 9/19/19)



































# Expanding Opportunity & Strengthening Central Virginia's Economy

#### Spanberger Helps Push the USMCA Trade Deal through U.S. House

Throughout 2019, Rep. Spanberger heard from many Central Virginia businesses, farms, and workers about the potential benefits of the USMCA—including on her two-day farm tour in August and at a USMCA roundtable she convened in October with the Chesterfield Chamber of Commerce. In December, Rep. Spanberger joined a bipartisan majority of her colleagues in ratifying the USMCA in the House—and she was proud to be one of the Democratic Members "who had been pushing their fellow Democrats to act on the deal." Earlier that month, Rep. Spanberger had joined Vice President Mike Pence at the White House to discuss the need to finalize the agreement. During her first year, she also met with officials from the U.S. Trade Representative to emphasize how the USMCA would expand markets for Central Virginia exports, level the playing for her district's workers, and protect critical trade relationships with buyers in Canada and Mexico. (Politico, 8/31/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 12/7/19; Agri-Pulse 12/10/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 12/20/19)

#### Spanberger & Rep. Wittman Propose Bipartisan Legislation to Expand Use of 529 Funds

To help more Virginia students and workers obtain the skills they need to stay competitive, Rep. Spanberger and U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA-01) introduced a bill to give individuals the freedom to use their 529 savings accounts to cover the costs of certain workforce training and credentialing programs. The bill would allow students to use their 529 funds to pay for costs associated with certification exams and maintaining credentials. Right now, only colleges, vocational schools, universities, or other post-secondary institutions are considered an eligible 529 education savings account expense. (Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 12/6/19)

### Spanberger Protects Critical Funding for Rural Broadband Projects in Central Virginia & Across the Country

This year, many counties in Virginia's Seventh District have applied for rural broadband infrastructure funding through the USDA's ReConnect program. However, this critical program's funding was zeroed-out in a Senate appropriations bill earlier in 2019. Following a bipartisan push led by Rep. Spanberger and joined by 48 of her House colleagues, the funding was included in the final budget legislation signed into law by the President. (DTN Progressive Farmer, 12/17/19; Rep. Spanberger, 12/18/19)

#### Rep. Spanberger Hosts 2019 Rural Broadband Summit at Louisa County High School

In August, Rep. Spanberger hosted a Rural Broadband Summit to hear about how a lack of reliable broadband internet access is impacting families, farmers, first responders, and business owners across Central Virginia. During the event, community members had the opportunity to share their personal experiences and ideas with Rep. Spanberger, as well as with officials from the USDA and the U.S. Commerce Department. The summit builds on Rep. Spanberger's efforts to amplify and collect the stories of Central Virginians who are currently facing unnecessary challenges due to the absence of broadband internet in their community, including through her 2019 Rural Broadband Survey. (Charlottesville Daily Progress, 8/17/19; Richmond Times-Dispatch, 8/19/19)



#### Spanberger Leads Legislation Passed by U.S. House to Fix Outdated Broadband Maps

Rep. Spanberger has repeatedly heard about the need to improve the FCC's broadband mapping data, as mapping errors and outdated information could leave many rural communities ineligible for federal funding to expand broadband access. To help fix this problem, Rep. Spanberger introduced an amendment that would provide recommendations on how the FCC can produce more accurate, reliable, and granular maps—and the report would identify FCC programs that rely on broadband maps and could benefit from improved accuracy. (Rep. Spanberger, 4/10/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 4/12/19)

#### Spanberger Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Expand Work-Study Eligibility to Head Start Jobs

In August, Rep. Spanberger helped lead the introduction of a bill to allow Head Start programs to receive Federal Work-Study dollars and to give college students additional opportunities to gain experience in the field of early childhood education. "By giving college students the opportunity to serve at Head Start centers during their undergraduate years, we are giving the next generation of educators valuable, hands-on experience in early childhood education," said Rep. Spanberger. Later, during her two-day education tour in October, she heard directly from Culpeper Head Start staff about how the legislation would help recruit and hire new employees. (Rep. Spanberger, 8/23/19; Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 10/9/19)

#### Alongside Bipartisan Coalition, Spanberger Introduces and Helps Pass Farm Workforce Modernization Act

To keep their operations successful, farms, greenhouses, and agribusinesses in Central Virginia need steady access to qualified and legal labor. However, the existing H-2A guest-worker program does not meet the employment requirements of local businesses and has long needed meaningful reforms. In October, Rep. Spanberger and a bipartisan group of her colleagues introduced legislation to improve predictability for Central Virginia agriculture employers and to reform the immigration system for farmworkers—and in December, her legislation passed in the U.S. House. Rep. Spanberger joined this effort after hearing the immigration needs of greenhouse owners and agribusinesses throughout the Seventh District—including the need for a year-round visa program. (Rep. Spanberger, 11/4/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 12/12/19)

### Increasing Transparency & Accountability



#### Spanberger Keeps Vow to Hold Town Halls Across Central Virginia

After promising to hold a town hall in each county of the Seventh District during her first year in office, Rep. Spanberger has now held 12 public, community-wide town halls, with at least one in each county. At each town hall, Rep. Spanberger gave a brief update on her work in the U.S. House, and she then took questions directly from VA-07 constituents. "Fundamentally, my chief responsibility is to be accountable to the needs and concerns of the Seventh District, and regular town halls are a platform for those I represent to make their ideas and opinions known as I continue my work in the U.S. House," said Rep. Spanberger. (Rep. Spanberger, 9/16/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 9/17/19; Orange County Review, 9/21/19)

### Spanberger Helps Pass Landmark Campaign Finance Reform Legislation to Put the Public Interest Ahead of Special Interests

In March, Rep. Spanberger voted to pass a package of reforms—which she cosponsored—that would strengthen transparency in the U.S. political system and limit the influence of special interests and undisclosed donors in the democratic process. "Congress cannot meaningfully address the nation's significant challenges without first recognizing and acknowledging the undue influence of special interests in our politics," said Rep. Spanberger. The legislation also includes Rep. Spanberger's amendment to prevent foreign threats to the U.S. political system by requiring intelligence assessments to identify possible foreign threats to election infrastructure, so that states may take appropriate actions. (New York Times, 3/7/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 3/8/19)

#### Spanberger Votes Against Fiscally Irresponsible Budget Deal, Urges Mindful Fiscal Policy

Since arriving in the U.S. House, Spanberger has called for Congress to address the national debt, increase transparency in the budget process, and build a pathway toward a balanced budget. In July, Rep. Spanberger voted against a budget bill that would have increased the U.S. national debt by nearly \$2 trillion. In September, Rep. Spanberger also joined nine of her freshman colleagues in calling on House Committee chairs to follow pay-as you-go rules and make sure that legislation that would increase the deficit is offset by spending cuts or revenue increases. (Roll Call, 9/4/19; Washington Post, 12/14/19)

#### Spanberger Helps Spearhead Successful Push to Block Proposed Congressional Pay Raise

In June, Rep. Spanberger was part of a successful bipartisan effort to block a pay increase for Members of Congress. After she and 19 additional Democrats and Republicans pushed an amendment to block the proposed cost-of-living-adjustment, House leaders decided to delay consideration of the Member pay raise. "When we are voting to raise wages, I hope that it's for teachers and community leaders and minimum wage workers before we turn our attention toward ourselves," said Rep. Spanberger. (The Hill, 6/10/19; Fox News, 6/11/19; WAVY 6/14/19)

#### Spanberger Concludes Two-Day, Nine-Stop Healthcare Tour Across Central Virginia

In November, Rep. Spanberger met with local patients, healthcare professionals, providers, and community leaders to learn more about the health and wellness challenges facing families and seniors across the Seventh District. The nine-stop tour included stops at several free community clinics, mental health facilities, the Fredericksburg Veterans Affairs (VA) Clinic, an Enroll Virginia open enrollment sign-up event, and healthcare-focused businesses. (WVIR, 11/26/19; Culpeper Star-Exponent, 11/26/19)

#### Spanberger Meets with Area Students, Teachers, & Faculty on Two-Day Education Tour

In October, Rep. Spanberger conducted an eight-stop education tour to learn more about how she can continue her work in the House to expand educational opportunities for all Central Virginia students. In conversations with teachers, students, and administrators throughout the tour, Rep. Spanberger spoke about the need to strengthen the area's successful career and technical education programs. (Rep. Spanberger, 10/10/19)

### On District-Wide Farm Tour, Spanberger Encourages Central Virginia Producers to Make their Voices Heard

During her two-day August Farm Tour, Rep. Spanberger met with Central Virginia crop and livestock producers, farm families, and agribusinesses to learn more about how she can support economic growth, boost trade opportunities, and help expand broadband internet in the region's rural communities. Throughout the tour, she was joined by representatives from Virginia agriculture organizations—including the Virginia Farm Bureau, Farm Credit of the Virginias, and the Virginia Agribusiness Council. At several stops, she also discussed her bipartisan efforts to ease trucking regulations on Central Virginia livestock haulers. (Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 8/13/19; Rep. Spanberger, 8/15/19)







#### Representative Abigail D. Spanberger

Proudly serving Virginia's Seventh District

#### WASHINGTON

1239 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-2815

#### **GLEN ALLEN**

4201 Dominion Blvd Suite 110 Glen Allen, VA 23060 (804) 401-4110

#### **SPOTSYLVANIA**

9104 Courthouse Rd **Room** 249 Spotsylvania, VA 22553 (540) 321-6130

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@RepSpanberger



spanberger.house.gov