



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

October 1, 2008

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am pleased to extend my warmest welcome to everyone attending the United States Azeris Network conference on "Energy Security and Diaspora in the Development of the U.S.-Azerbaijan Strategic Allied Relations."

I commend the organizers of this year's event for their hard work and dedication to highlighting the importance of U.S.-Azerbaijan relations. The collection of Azerbaijani members of Parliament, ministers and diplomats, with U.S. policy and decision makers, former administration and elected officials, scholars and graduate students, comprises a rich combination of the individuals who are steering current foreign policy for our nations and those who will take the helm in the years to come. This forum for discussion will provide these individuals with a rich understanding of the current state of relations between our countries and how we can assure such positive relations in the future.

Virginia is strengthened by the diversity of its residents and we are blessed to have a vibrant Azerbaijani Community throughout the entire Commonwealth. The economic and cultural outreach efforts of Azerbaijani Virginians has enriched us all and helped promote fairness and tolerance while maintaining pride in our own individual identities.

Best wishes on a successful conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TKaine", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Timothy M. Kaine

August 16, 2006
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