



Governor Ruth Ann Minner



January 27, 2005

To Members of the 143rd General Assembly and to all Delawareans:

In compliance with 29 Del. C. Section 6342, I respectfully submit for your consideration the Fiscal Year 2006 Bond and Capital Improvements Act for the State of Delaware. The \$631.1 million in capital budget recommendations reflects a plan that makes strategic investments in critical areas while completing many of the projects already underway in our state.

A total of \$111.6 million is recommended for public education construction for Fiscal Year 2006. These recommendations invest \$30.8 million in school construction to continue the Minner-Carney Administration's goal of implementing full-day kindergarten statewide by 2008. These funds also support construction projects in the Indian River, Christina, Appoquinimink, Red Clay, Polytech, and Caesar Rodney school districts and at the Sussex Vo-Tech High School.

In support of economic development efforts in our state, I am recommending \$12.0 million for the second year of the New Economy Initiative. Within this recommended amount is funding for the second year of the EPSCOR grant, a key initiative supporting biotechnology research efforts statewide. I am also recommending a total of \$15.0 million for the Diamond State Port Corporation and the Riverfront Development Corporation, and \$10.0 million for the Strategic Fund. These investments, coupled with private contributions, will continue to strengthen our economy by supporting, attracting, and retaining quality jobs.

To continue our progress in achieving a Livable Delaware that strengthens communities and preserves our quality of life, I am recommending the creation of a Livable Delaware Infrastructure Fund. This account, created through surplus abandoned property revenues, will be dedicated to infrastructure and environmental projects for Fiscal Year 2006. In combination with other funds, a total of \$42.2 million is recommended for investments in advanced planning for facility location, farmland preservation, green infrastructure, beach preservation, drinking water, and wastewater treatment. In addition to protecting our natural resources and open spaces, these investments will help direct growth to areas where state, county and local governments have prepared for it.

I am also recommending several major state agency projects including \$8.0 million for the Kent County Court Complex and \$13.4 million for the Stockley Center Medical Building.

The Fiscal Year 2006 Bond and Capital Improvements Act makes significant strides in achieving our mutual goals of improving our schools; protecting the environment and making Delaware more livable; making families healthy, safe and self-sufficient; attracting and retaining quality jobs; and managing state government well.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Minner
Governor