



Governor Ruth Ann Minner



January 29, 2004

To Members of the 142nd General Assembly and to all Delawareans:

In compliance with 29 Del. C. Section 6342, I am respectfully submitting for your consideration the Fiscal Year 2005 Bond and Capital Improvements Act for the State of Delaware totaling \$592.7 million. These capital budget recommendations of \$275.5 million in non-transportation projects, \$273.7 million in transportation projects and \$43.5 million for Twenty-First Century Fund projects reflect my continuing commitments to improving our schools; attracting and retaining quality jobs; protecting the environment and making Delaware more livable; making families healthy, safe and self-sufficient; and managing state government well.

For continued economic development that nurtures and maintains high quality jobs my recommendation is \$69.5 million to the Delaware Economic Development Office for the Delaware Strategic Fund, New Economy Initiative, the Port of Wilmington and the Riverfront Development Corporation. With the implementation of my economic development package and these funds, we can continue to strengthen and diversify Delaware's economy by identifying the successes of the future and laying the groundwork to make them happen here.

To create a Livable Delaware that strengthens communities and preserves our quality of life, I recommend \$43.5 million for green infrastructure, farmland preservation, resource conservation and development, and wastewater treatment. State taxpayers pay for roads, schools and other services demanded by new development. Our Livable Delaware agenda for fighting sprawl maximizes these taxpayer investments by preserving open space and directing growth to areas where state, county and local governments are prepared for it.

Improving public education continues to be a primary goal of my Administration. To support schools that set high standards and prepare children for college, work and life, I am recommending \$119.3 million for public education. These funds will be used for new school construction in the Appoquinimink, Cape Henlopen, and Polytech school districts and continue projects in Brandywine, Caesar Rodney, Christina, Indian River, New Castle County Vo-Tech and Red Clay school districts.

For the protection of the health, safety and self-sufficiency for Delaware families, I am recommending \$9.7 million for the planning and construction of medical facilities, including the Veterans Home, the Stockley Medical Center and a new facility at the Delaware Psychiatric Center.

I look forward to working with you to approve this recommended capital budget and together we will make a prosperous future for Delaware.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Minner
Governor