



Governor Ruth Ann Minner



January 26, 2006

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 2007 Bond and Capital Improvements Act for the State of Delaware. The \$402.1 million in capital budget recommendations targets investment towards critical infrastructure areas of the state including public education, economic development, and public safety.

A total of \$105.8 million is recommended for public education construction for Fiscal Year 2007. These funds provide for the continued implementation of full-day kindergarten statewide by 2008 and are being directed to needed classroom renovations and expansions in several districts across our state. Projects in the Red Clay, Appoquinimink, Indian River, Smyrna, Sussex Technical, Lake Forest, Brandywine, Polytech, and Colonial school districts will be supported through these capital recommendations.

This budget targets a total of \$33.0 million toward supporting Delaware's economic vitality. The third year of the New Economy Initiative is recommended at a level of \$10.0 million. Funds from this initiative will continue our commitment toward the Delaware Competitiveness Fund and towards the Clean Energy partnership. I am recommending \$1.0 million for the Fraunhofer Center for Molecular Biotechnology for vaccine development efforts. These funds represent the first year of a five year commitment and are projected to leverage significant private funding as well. I am also recommending a total of \$7.0 million for the Diamond State Port Corporation, \$5.0 million for the Riverfront Development Corporation, and \$10.0 million for the Strategic Fund.

Enhancing public safety through major investments in technology has been fully addressed in this budget. Continued support for critical enhancements to the 800 MHz public safety radio system is included at a cost of \$13.7 million. Much needed support to local law enforcement agencies is provided through funding of \$2.5 million for Automated Fingerprint Identification System equipment and \$1.2 million to continue the Law Enforcement Technology and Education Fund.

I am also recommending several major state agency projects including \$16.7 million for the Kent County Court Complex, \$5.6 million for critical deferred maintenance projects at the Delaware Psychiatric Center and \$19.8 million to complete the Stockley Center Medical Building. In addition, I am recommending \$20.0 million in General Funds to support the capital program of the Department of Transportation.

In total, the Fiscal Year 2007 Bond and Capital Improvements Act represents a spending plan that directs resources to areas of highest priority supporting our mutual goals of improving our schools; making families healthy, safe and self-sufficient; attracting and retaining quality jobs; and managing state government well.

Sincerely,

Ruth Ann Minner
Governor