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**Legislative Priorities**

and other supports to ensure more families are able to afford child care services

**Support Increased Train Ridership in WV**

The Jefferson County Development Authority supports increased efforts to increase the availability of passenger train transportation to and from the County, including on the weekends. Research indicates the highest number of visitors to Harpers Ferry are in the town at 2:00 P.M. on Saturdays. The primary visitors to this market are heavily reliant on public transportation, but the only public transportation in Harpers Ferry on Saturdays is an Amtrak train that leaves Union Station at 4:05 P.M. We request that the legislature look for ways to encourage train ridership to the State. Looking at using previously awarded Congestion, Mitigation, and Air Quality (CMAQ) federal funds may be a good first step in the process.

**Regulatory Review to Encourage Agritourism and Farmland Protection**

The Jefferson County Development Authority requests that the legislature establish a commission to review and provide recommendations on regulatory and legislative relief to foster the development and operation of distillery and vineyard agritourism in the State of West Virginia.  Removing regulatory and legislative hurdles will foster economic development and encourage farmland preservation.

**Incentives to Encourage Residential Renewable Energy**

The Jefferson County Development Authority encourages the legislature to authorize additional strategies to expand the development and use of residential renewable energy resources, including such community-based programs as were proposed by Senator Patricia Rucker (SB 627) and Delegate Evan Hansen (HB 4561). We also recommend that the legislature ensure residents are able to receive income for their renewable energy generation.  As national economies become more dependent on electricity, residents should be encouraged to supplement home-based energy generation.

**Clean Water**

The Jefferson County Development Authority supports initiatives to foster clean water for our county’s residents and across the state. The Jefferson County Development Authority encourages to legislature to authorize sufficient state funding so that state agencies and local water systems are able to administer provisions of the WV PFAS Protection Act that was enacted in the last legislative session, and to take additional action to authorize the remediation of these “forever chemicals” from our water and water systems. We also encourage the legislature to take action to assist in upgrading or replacing aging infrastructure, including leaking septic systems.