France and Virginia Sign Sustainable Development Agreement

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On March 13, Ambassador François Delattre and Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe signed an agreement on sustainable development. The partnership aims to develop scientific cooperation and economic development between France and the state of Virginia.

According to statistics, northern Virginia is projected to be one of the fastest-growing areas in the United States over the next 10 years. This growth provides a unique opportunity for economic development, but also creates challenges to develop and adapt housing, transportation, and energy. It is also a unique opportunity to develop solutions that incorporate climate and protection of natural resources, which will have a direct impact on local quality of life and attractiveness.

Between 2009 and 2013, French companies invested over $570 million in Virginia, making France the second-largest foreign direct investor in the state.

This partnership will allow France and Virginia to develop new solutions to face climate change, develop quality of life, create jobs, and generate new economic opportunities.

Governor McAuliffe was accompanied by Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones, Secretary for Transport Aubrey Lane, Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward, and Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Todd Haymore.

More than 10 CEOs of French companies were in attendance as well.

- Ambassador’s speech: http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article5451
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