



## Northern Virginia Regional Commission

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### **Latvian Chamber of Commerce Opens National Headquarters With Northern Virginia Regional Commission**

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) announced that the Latvian Chamber of Commerce in the Americas has opened its National Headquarters at the NVRC offices in Fairfax, VA.

The Latvian Chamber of Commerce (LatCham) is an advocate for businesses growth and economic development between the Americas and the Republic of Latvia. LatCham represents a community that connects high-energy professionals, executives, entrepreneurs, and emerging business leaders from Canada, Latvia, South America, and the United States into a global business network. LatCham is launching branches across the United States, works in close cooperation with government and academia, and partners extensively with other domestic and international Chambers of Commerce. The LatCham network is designed to help its members:

- Identify new business and economic development opportunities in the U.S. and Latvia
- Build lasting business and public partnerships
- Foster public-private partnerships
- Apply the principles of sustainable development in the U.S. and abroad
- House international mentor/protégé programs
- Promote academic and professional scholarships
- Be a catalyst for economic growth

LatCham Director of the Board, Gustav Plato (CEO of iiGrowth LLC) stated, “We were seeking out a home base that has extensive international experience. As one would expect, in the U.S., there are many good candidates. In particular, Northern Virginia is a recognized global leader in the support of international business development and economic partnerships. NVRC is the ideal host, given its long-term support for international regional cooperation that began in 1998 with the Verband Region Stuttgart. In 2008, under the umbrella of the European Network

of Metropolitan Regions and areas, the bilateral partnership expanded formally to include over 70 U.S. and European regional councils.

LatCham has a wide range of industries, services and themes for which we are seeking collaboration. These include supply chain and logistics, energy and environment, health care, high technology, and education. Virginia, in general and Northern Virginia in particular, offer the economic and technical assets and diversity that we seek to move the mission and vision of LatCham in the direction we envisioned. We are thrilled to be here.”

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission is a regional council of local governments in the Northern Virginia representing approximately 2.5 million people over approximately 2,000 square miles. It is a public government body created in 1969 pursuant to the Virginia Area Development Act and a regionally executed Charter. NVRC’s programs and policies are established by a 25-member Board of Commissioners composed of elected officials appointed by the governing bodies of NVRC’s 14 member localities. Latvia, with a population of 2.2 million people, is similar in population and purpose.

Mark Gibb, Executive Director of NVRC stated, “The co-location of the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission is a mutually beneficial partnership with many opportunities for collaboration on local, regional and international issues. This is a big advantage for Northern Virginia.”

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