

**Statement by Mike Quillen**  
**Rector, Virginia Tech Board of Visitors**

First, I apologize that I have a conflict Thursday and will not be able to attend the Subcommittee meeting when the proposed bill relating to Stadium Woods on the Virginia Tech campus will be discussed. I would like to take this opportunity to register my personal discomfort with the proposed legislation. The administration and the Board of Visitors have given this subject and this area of the campus considerable thought and evaluation. As evidenced by action taken by President Steger, the Board of Visitors Facilities Committee and the full Board of Visitors, we recognize the ecological significance of the woods and have taken steps to protect the site. However, we do not feel it is prudent to place permanent easement status on this location. As part of our responsibility to oversee the implementation of the campus master plan it is our and future Boards of Visitors' obligation to manage the properties in the best interests of all constituents. At this time we feel preservation is the appropriate designation; however, to say that is the proper designation fifty or one hundred years from now would be presumptuous on our part. We do recognize there may be very environmentally sensitive areas that may require such a perpetual designation but all our research and investigation in this case does not lead us to that conclusion. We would urge the subcommittee to reject this suggestion and to have faith that the duly appointed Board members as well as the professional management of the University will manage this site and all the assets assigned to them responsibly. Thank you for your consideration and again I apologize I cannot appear and provide these remarks in person.