

Virginia League of Conservation Voters

Virginia General Assembly

Conservation Scorecard

2013

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2013 Scorecard Acknowledgements

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Map Graphics: Commonwealth of Virginia, Division of Legislative Services

Graphic Design: Michael Harl, DIALOGUE

Front Cover Photo: *Barn and Peaks of Otter* by Patty Love

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Legislative Leadership Award 2013

Throughout the Scorecard you will notice plaques like this one noting recipients of the **Virginia League's 2013 Legislative Leadership Awards** for their important assistance on conservation issues





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Bold Short Session Yields Progress for Conservation

While the atmosphere was at times icy, especially in the evenly divided Senate of Virginia, the 2013 General Assembly Session will be long remembered for its bold, and in some cases historic, horse-trading to push major legislation across the finish line. Such movement on larger issues is unusual for the so-called “short session” which saw the legislators at the Capitol for only 46 days.

Three major legislative issues became quickly intertwined: a partisan fight in the Senate over attempts to dramatically redraw district lines, an expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act and a push in his final year of office by Governor Bob McDonnell for the first overhaul of Virginia’s transportation funding system in over 25 years.

Alongside and sometimes in the middle of these historic battles, the Virginia League of Conservation Voters secured important conservation successes during the 2013 General Assembly session. These included: forcing the withdrawal of legislation to lift the ban on uranium mining; defeating attempts to repeal Virginia’s highly successful land preservation tax credit program; successfully establishing an agricultural net-metering policy; new protections for the important menhaden fishery; and preventing a radical new definition of agricultural lands.

Our successes were achieved by reaching out as never before to both sides of the aisle with a strong focus on making conservation issues non-partisan. We supported an equal number of measures from both political parties and worked with a diverse group of Delegates and Senators regardless of party or past conservation score. We specifically targeted several local groups around the Commonwealth with which to work, strategically coordinating our efforts in each legislator’s home district, as well as inside the Capitol. We will advance these strategic initiatives throughout the year as we reach out to legislators and partners in various regions of the Commonwealth to ensure our efforts continue to pay conservation dividends well into the future.

With the only hotly contested Governor’s race in the Nation, all eyes are once again on Virginia as we publish this, our 14th Annual Conservation Scorecard. The Governor of Virginia is one of the most powerful executives in any state, making over 900 appointments to decision-making boards and commissions each year of their tenure. These appointments hold great sway over our air, water and land-use policies.

Virginia will also elect a new Lieutenant Governor, who will become the all-important tie-breaking vote in the equally divided Senate and we will also elect a

new Attorney General, an office with far-reaching legal powers to weigh in on important conservation issues. Finally, we are guaranteed at least nine new faces in the House of Delegates due to retirements and perhaps a few more after November’s election results are tallied.

Between these House races and the statewide contests, 2013 will see some amazing changes as the political pendulum is once again set in motion. While all eyes are on the Commonwealth, the Virginia League will be working hard to make sure our newly elected leaders are pro-conservation and push forward good public policy once in office.

Our successes in the 2013 General Assembly Session and throughout the remainder of the year are only possible because of your continued support of the Virginia League. Please know how very important your active participation is to the Virginia League’s efforts to defend and advance our shared vision for the Commonwealth’s natural resources.

Jeff Painter
Executive Director
Virginia League of Conservation Voters



The Political Force for Conservation

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters protects resources important to all Virginians: clean air and water, thriving communities and rural landscapes, productive farms and forests, historic battlefields and Main Streets, and ample public lands and recreation.

To do this, we secure good public policies at the state level, hold elected officials accountable for their positions on conservation and endorse conservation-minded candidates for state level offices. We are unique among Virginia's conservation community in that we are the political force for conservation at the State Capitol.

Conservation Accountability

Our annual Conservation Scorecard is the only tool available to Virginians that demonstrates how our elected officials perform on behalf of our environment. Knowing what happens in committee rooms and on the floor of both the House and Senate chambers is critical information. We honor the best conservation legislators for their hard work during the General Assembly and we shine a public spotlight on the remaining legislators who didn't quite do enough. It is critical that you talk with your elected officials about their scores included in this Conservation Scorecard. Let them know our environment is worth preserving.

Conservation Endorsements

The Virginia League is one of the few organizations in the state that endorses and seeks to elect candidates to office. Along with the scores in our Conservation Scorecard, we conduct research, administer candidate questionnaires and perform personal interviews to determine which candidates deserve our "conservation seal of approval."

After being endorsed by our Board of Directors, candidates are provided with political field expertise and financial backing. We educate conservation voters about the best candidates and work hard to ensure our endorsed candidates win.

Conservation Advocacy

Once elections are final Virginia League staff and volunteers increase their advocacy activities on behalf of Virginia's natural landscape. We work to inform elected officials about the value and benefits of conservation and to push forward sound conservation policy.

There are two ways you can get involved in our advocacy efforts:

1) Legislative Contact Teams

Our environment is better protected when residents all across the Commonwealth speak in favor of clean air, clean water and open

spaces. To actively engage residents in the protection of these important natural resources, the Virginia Conservation Network and the Virginia League of Conservation Voters-Education Fund created the Legislative Contact Team Program in the fall of 2002.

The Program recruits and trains volunteers to serve as conservation contacts in their home legislative districts. Program participants learn about important conservation topics and then speak directly to their legislators about preserving our natural landscape and solving our most pressing problems. The more our elected officials hear from conservationists in their districts, the better our environment.

To date, the Program has trained thousands of volunteers to communicate effectively with elected leaders. Close to 400 participants, in nearly every House and Senate district, have been involved in advocacy efforts related to the 2013 General Assembly Session. Thanks to those outspoken individuals all across Virginia, our conservation voice at the Capitol is stronger than ever.

To join the Program or for more information, visit valcvf.org.

2) Conservation E-Action Virginia

Action alerts from the Virginia League are a simple way to stay up-to-date on what our decision makers are doing (or not doing) on behalf of conservation. At critical moments during the General Assembly session and throughout the year, we ask volunteers to take action. Those actions include sending emails, making phone calls and writing letters to the editors of local newspapers to send a strong message to our elected officials that their voting constituents are watching.

Please sign up for Conservation E-Action Alerts by visiting valcv.org. We will put you in touch with key decision makers on issues such as clean air and water, transportation, energy, land conservation and others.

Keep an eye on valcv.org to stay abreast of our events and activities throughout the rest of the year. During the legislative session, you can always find our Conservation Bill Chart which lists important conservation bills moving through the General Assembly.



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PHOTO CREDIT: *Waiting for Lunch* by Laura Dent | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

Legislative Leadership Award

2013

Delegate Lee Ware
Land Preservation

Legislative Leadership Award

2013

Speaker William J. Howell
Open Space and Farmland Preservation

Legislative Leadership Award

2013

Senator Donald McEachin
Defense of Uranium Mining Ban

2013 Legislative Heroes

Our Legislative Heroes show special dedication to conservation priorities. Seven Senators and nineteen Delegates voted on behalf of conservation on every bill the Virginia League selected for the 2013 Scorecard. These legislators deserve a special show of support for their hard work, integrity, and dedication to environmental concerns – especially when that is the toughest vote.



Senator Kenny Alexander



Senator Adam Ebbin



Senator Barbara Favola



Senator Mark Herring



Senator Donald McEachin



Senator John Miller



Senator Richard Saslaw



Delegate Mamye BaCote



Delegate Robert Brink



Delegate Betsy Carr



Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn



Delegate Charniele Herring



Delegate Patrick Hope



Delegate Mark Keam



Delegate Kaye Kory



Delegate Robert Krupicka



Delegate Alfonso Lopez



Delegate Jennifer McClellan



Delegate Delores McQuinn



Delegate Kenneth Plum



Delegate James Scott



Delegate Mark Sickles



Delegate David Toscano



Delegate Roslyn Tyler



Delegate Jeion Ward



Delegate Vivian Watts

Know the Score

As a conservation watchdog in the General Assembly, the Virginia League tracks voting records on key conservation and funding legislation. We work hard to make sure legislators hear from their constituents. Then at session's end, we publish this Conservation Scorecard to help voters distinguish between the rhetoric and the reality of a lawmaker's record.

Check out your legislators' scores and let them know what you think. Thank them for supporting conservation or let them know they can do better. Send an email, make a phone call or schedule a visit with your legislator—it doesn't matter how you contact them, just let them know you saw their scores. Visit valcv.org to find your legislators' contact information.

How the Votes Were Chosen

Hundreds of bills that impact our environment are introduced in the legislature each year. Throughout the annual session, we provide clear guidance to legislators on the conservation community's preferred position on bills. We also alert legislators to the fact that these bills may be included in the Conservation Scorecard.

Once the session has concluded, the Virginia League chooses a handful of important votes that illustrate a clear distinction between those legislators who supported the conservation position and those who

did not. Some of these important votes are held in committee while others are held on the full floor of the House and/or Senate.

How the Scores Were Calculated

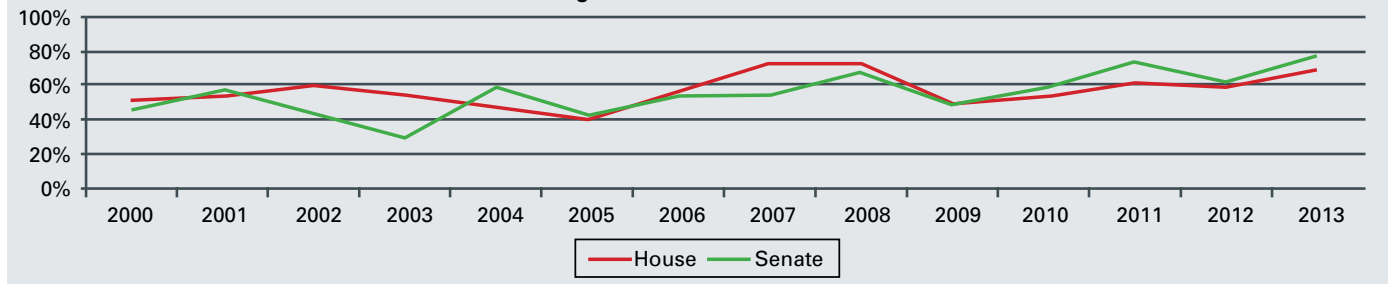
For each correct conservation vote taken by a legislator, he or she receives one point. If this legislator was also the patron of a conservation bill, he or she receives a patron credit in the form of one extra point. These cumulative points are divided by the total number of conservation voting opportunities available for that particular legislator. This percentage is the final score reported in the Conservation Scorecard.

It is important to remember that we must not permanently chastise legislators for one year's poor performance. Every legislator has room for improvement and we should be encouraging them each session to better protect our environment. Conversely, we must not take legislators' good performances for granted—they still need to hear from conservation voters.

Legislative Leaders - Score of 75% to 99%

House	Party	Score	Senate	Party	Score
Bulova	D	91%	Barker	D	91%
Dance	D	78%	Blevins	R	75%
Greason	R	78%	Colgan	D	92%
Hester	D	89%	Deeds	D	83%
Howell, A.	D	89%	Edwards	D	92%
Speaker Howell	R	80%	Hanger	R	75%
James	D	80%	Howell	D	92%
Lewis	D	80%	Locke	D	82%
Minchew	R	90%	Lucas	D	83%
Morrissey	D	82%	Marsden	D	92%
Surovell	D	90%	Marsh	D	82%
Torian	D	82%	McWaters	R	75%
Ware, O.	D	90%	Northam	D	85%
			Petersen	D	85%
			Puckett	D	85%
			Puller	D	92%
			Ruff	R	75%
			Stosch	R	75%
			Vogel	R	80%
			Watkins	R	77%

Average Annual Scores: 2000 - 2013



Session Highlights and Scorecard Vote Key

The highpoint of the 2013 Virginia General Assembly session was unmistakable: with your help, we maintained Virginia's 31-year ban on uranium mining! However, you will not see a vote on keeping the ban in the 2013 Scorecard – a vote was never taken due to a lack of support for the proposal.

Likewise you will not find a vote on the historic transportation package (HB 2313, Speaker Howell, R-Stafford) on this year's Scorecard, although it was the only measure to consume as much of our time as uranium mining. The Virginia League worked diligently to secure important compromises, additional rail funding, improved funding allocations and maintenance dollars at every step of the process. We would have preferred that the final measure increased the accountability for how transportation dollars are spent – and we will continue to advocate for this much-needed reform. As one Senator remarked, "There is something in this transportation package for everyone to hate and something for everyone to love."

Since time immemorial the legislative process has contained many unanimously adopted or defeated amendments, unrecorded voice votes, parliamentary maneuvers and behind-the-scenes actions. Some of these legislative actions are at our request and some take conservation backwards, but neither lend themselves to being catalogued in a scorecard or allow for the appropriate assignment of responsibility to legislators. There are still dozens of measures that see the light and debate of day with which we may gauge Delegates' and Senators' support of conservation.

We invite you now to review the Vote Key in the following pages to learn more about the issues we have selected for our 2013 Legislative Scorecard and to find out how your Delegate and Senator scored on this year's important conservation issues.

Legislative Leadership Award

2013

Delegate Randy Minchew
Agricultural Net Metering

Legislative Leadership Award

2013

Senator Emmett Hanger
Natural Resources Stewardship

Legislative Leadership Award

2013

Delegate Edward Scott
Menhaden Fishery Management

PHOTO CREDIT: Bay Fishing by Bill Dickinson | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

Protecting Our Water

✓ HB 1397 – Dan River

Delegate Danny Marshall (R-Danville)

Since its inception in 1970, the Scenic Rivers program has protected over 450 miles of Virginia's historic waterways, giving landowners, citizens and local governments more input in the planning and management of their rivers. House Bill 1397 designates a 15-mile stretch of the Dan River as part of the Virginia Scenic Rivers System. This segment of the Dan flows eastward through rural Pittsylvania County, meandering back and forth across the Virginia-North Carolina border before reaching Danville. Legislators passed HB 1397 with bipartisan support, preserving a beautiful and historic section of this Southside Virginia river for future generations.

✗ HB 2190 – Local Stormwater Plans

Delegate John Cosgrove (R-Chesapeake)

Stormwater issues vary greatly across the Commonwealth: the same thunderstorm can cause mudslides in Southwest, but flood entire city blocks in Hampton Roads. Because stormwater issues can be dangerous and time-sensitive, Virginia law allows local governments to adopt their own stormwater measures – as long as minimum state requirements are met. This policy gives local governments the freedom to address important stormwater issues as those needs become apparent.

House Bill 2190 requires local governments to submit new stormwater policies to the state for approval. This process could slow enactment of new policies and impede a locality's ability to address time-sensitive issues unique to their area. Bipartisan opposition was not enough to stop this legislation from passing the General Assembly.

✓ HB 2254 and SB 1291 – Menhaden

Delegate Ed Scott (R-Culpeper)
Senator Richard Stuart (R-Montross)

This year, the General Assembly adopted new requirements that will reduce the catch of menhaden by 20 percent, bringing Virginia in line with recommendations from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Recent estimates place the population of this important fishery at the lowest level on record. Menhaden filter water by feeding on phytoplankton and are crucial to the diets of bluefish, striped bass and other larger species. House Bill 2254 and Senate Bill 1291 passed without a dissenting vote.

Land Use and Transportation

✓ HB 1398 – Land Preservation

Tax Credits

Delegate Lee Ware (R-Powhatan)

For the past 13 years, the Land Preservation Tax Credit Program has been a crucial incentive for land conservation, helping to permanently protect over 619,000 acres

of working farms, forests, watersheds and historic sites across Virginia. House Bill 1398 sets the yearly cap at \$100 million for the Land Preservation Tax Credit Program and provides that an additional amount of funding, starting with \$13.9 million in 2013, will be appropriated to matching grant programs that help purchase lands for public use and place lands under easement when the landowner cannot afford to make a donation. Having passed both legislative bodies by large margins, HB 1398 will bolster and safeguard land preservation efforts in Virginia.

✗ HB 1430 – Agricultural Zoning Changes

Delegate Scott Lingamfelter (R-Woodbridge)

When it comes to farming, Virginia is an agriculturally rich state with unique regions, each with its own particular specialty. Farm production in the Shenandoah Valley takes on a different character than agricultural operations in Northern Virginia. The same can be said for Southside or Tidewater. Because Virginia's regions are so varied, most zoning decisions are left to the local governments. Virginia's counties, cities and towns are better suited than the state government for tailoring local zoning laws to the needs and desires of their citizens. House Bill 1430 would have amended Virginia's Right to Farm Act to provide an end-run around local zoning laws – significantly altering the definition



PHOTO CREDIT: Windswept by Laura Dent | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

of agricultural land and allowing for broad commercial activity. By instituting statewide changes to zoning ordinances across Virginia, HB 1430 would have overridden generations of cooperation between farmers, their neighbors and local governments. It would have imposed a one-size-fits-all regulation in search of a problem. This bill passed the House but was killed in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.

✘ **HB 2298 – Billboard Relocation**

Delegate Richard Anderson (R-Woodbridge)

As with the above mentioned Right to Farm amendment, we increasingly see various people, unhappy with not getting their desired outcome at the local level, coming to the General Assembly hoping to override local decisions. HB 2298 was another instance of that dynamic, which passed this year despite its similarities to a 2007 bill vetoed by former Governor Tim Kaine. Under House Bill 2298 and its companion Senate Bill 820 (Puckett, D-Tazewell), any billboards disturbed by a government road project may be moved to a new location – even if that new location does not allow billboards. Recognizing the value of attractive scenery to tourism and economic development, many localities take an active role in preserving their scenic and historic resources by establishing historic districts and sign ordinances. This

legislation takes a bite out of that local control and has the potential to violate many of Virginia’s scenic and historic areas. The Virginia League will continue to fight to maintain local zoning authority in the Commonwealth.

✓ **SB 737 – Freshwater Navigation**

Senator Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax)

Navigating the rivers and streams of the Commonwealth is becoming a popular way to exercise and explore Virginia’s beautiful natural heritage. However, our river navigation laws date back to Virginia’s time as an English colony, confusing paddlers and landowners alike and discouraging this healthy pastime that connects Virginians and their families to our land and water. Blocked by a narrow vote on the Senate floor, Senate Bill 737 would have codified the right to navigate Virginia’s waterways in nonmotorized vessels for recreational purposes while still preserving land owner rights.

✓ **SB 977 and HB 1692 PPTA Reform**

Senator Louise Lucas (D-Portsmouth)
Delegate Chris Jones (R-Suffolk)

In recent years, Virginia has increasingly relied on public-private partnerships to finance major transportation projects. This form of financing can be useful when state money is in short supply, but proper public oversight of the process is needed to assure Virginia taxpayers that negotiations between

state officials and private companies are being conducted in the Commonwealth’s best interest. Senate Bill 977 and House Bill 1692 require the posting of public notices when state agencies receive unsolicited proposals through the Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA). The public notices must include the nature, timing and scope of proposals and be posted for 120 days on a state website to allow for the submission of any competing offers and public comments. Once a decision has been made on a proposal, the responsible state agency will post the major business points of the agreement on the state website, including the projected use of any public funds, and again allow for public comments. While the Virginia League supports broader PPTA reforms, we welcome this sensible improvement that unanimously passed this year.

✘ **SJR 281 – Expiring Tax Credits**

Senator Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax)

Senate Joint Resolution 281 would have amended the Constitution of Virginia to provide that no tax credit may exceed a period of five years unless reauthorized by the General Assembly. The legislature can already vote to change or eliminate certain tax credit programs if it sees fit, as it did with several programs during the 2013 session. However, placing all tax credits on a five-year expiration cycle would cause economic uncertainty in numerous areas.

Both Virginia's Land Preservation and Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Programs are amazing success stories with national reputations that add jobs and important capital to our economy while preserving our heritage for future generations. To place such programs in a five-year renewal process would create great uncertainty among recipients, potential program participants, lenders and contractors. Such a measure would have threatened revitalization projects in historic downtowns across the Commonwealth, jeopardizing Virginia's long-term commitment to land preservation. After many office visits and Virginia League legislative memos, this resolution was voted down by a significant majority of the State Senate.

Energy

By repealing instead of improving many of the financial incentives in Virginia's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) program, the General Assembly took a big step backwards this year on renewable energy. Virginia's RPS program was started by lawmakers in 2007 with the goal of increasing energy diversity, reducing environmental impacts, and spurring investment and jobs in Virginia's clean energy industry. Under Virginia's voluntary program, power companies were given financial incentives to generate or buy a percentage of their energy from renewable sources.

However, after five years in practice the RPS law has not had its intended effect: the Commonwealth remains one of only nine states without utility scale wind or solar energy. Spurred by an Attorney General's Office report, legislators voted to strip nearly all of the financial incentives for clean energy from the RPS law – effectively dismantling the program. Despite these setbacks, the goals of Virginia's RPS program are still attainable if certain changes are made, such as basing new financial incentives on clean energy investments within the Commonwealth.

✓ SB 1269 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Reform

Senator Donald McEachin (D-Richmond) Senate Bill 1269 and its companion House Bill 1946 (Lopez, D-Arlington) would have instituted a much-needed reform by requiring that 40% of the RPS investments in Virginia be directed to solar energy. While the House version was killed by a voice vote in the House Commerce and Labor Committee, the Senate bill found early bipartisan support and was reported from the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor with the backing of six Republicans and five Democrats. Unfortunately, the bipartisan support evaporated one day later on the Senate floor when SB 1269 was blocked on a party-line vote. Lieutenant Governor Bolling broke the tie by voting to kill the legislation.

✓ SB 1259 and HB 2180 – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard

Senator John Edwards (D-Roanoke)
Delegate Tom Rust (R-Herndon)

As we have witnessed over many sessions, especially in the area of renewable energy, not all progress is to be found in bold, giant leaps forward, but rather in important incremental steps that move us closer to our larger goals. One positive move in the RPS program was placed into law by Senate Bill 1259 and House Bill 2180, which closes a loophole that allowed for the double counting of renewable energy credits by utilities. These two successful bills also encourage the creation of more renewable projects within Virginia's borders.

✓ HB 1695 – Agricultural Net Metering

Delegate Randy Minchew (R-Leesburg)

The 2013 session was a productive one when it comes to energy efficiency and renewables in the agriculture industry. House Bill 1695 will allow agricultural businesses to receive retail credit for the electricity they generate from renewable sources like solar, wind, and aerobic or anaerobic digester gas operations on their farm land. While community net metering was removed from the original proposal, House Bill 1695 is still a great step forward. After attempts in past sessions, this measure passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, helping agricultural





businesses save money, stimulating demand and investment in renewable energy across Virginia and creating jobs for installers and manufacturers. Chief Co-Patrons included Delegates Terry Kilgore (R-Gate City), Scott Surovell (D-Mount Vernon) and David Toscano (D-Charlottesville).

✘ **SB 797 – Advanced Meters**

Senator Tom Garrett (R-Hadensville)

Senate Bill 797 would have prohibited electric utilities from installing advanced meters unless they have been expressly requested by a customer. In their infancy now, advanced meters could provide customers with better technology to monitor their own energy consumption, save money on their electricity bills and in turn improve the efficiency of the overall energy grid. Homeowners that want to stick with their older meters already have that option, but as utility companies work to inform consumers about the latest advances in metering, we believe this legislation would have added confusing requirements to an emerging and promising technology. Fortunately for Virginia's electricity consumers, this bill was killed by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor.

Good Government

Each year, the General Assembly puts forth legislation that falls outside the realm

of "good government." Most measures are introduced with the best of intentions, while others serve as poignant reminders that we have more work ahead. We must remind our elected officials that, in the words of President Eisenhower, "...we – you and I, and our government – must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience, the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage."

✘ **HJR 654 – U.N. Agenda 21**

Delegate Scott Lingamfelter (R-Woodbridge)

House Joint Resolution 654 would have stated as the official position of the Commonwealth, "the need to oppose United Nations Agenda 21 due to its radical plan of purported 'sustainable development.'" HJR 654 further directed that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. While corresponding with the United Nations may be a positive civics lesson, the General Assembly's time and energy is not well spent opposing voluntary measures meant to further the idea of sustainability or endangering state programs that seek to promote the wise use of our lands. HJR 654 passed the House of Delegates, but fortunately for the Commonwealth was killed by a voice vote in the Senate Committee on Rules.

✔ **SB 742 – Redistricting**

Senator John Miller (D-Newport News)

With public opinion of government at an all time low, it is important to remember what the democratic process is all about: voters choosing their representatives – not the other way around. Half of Virginia's 140 legislative seats went uncontested in the last election. When one political party controls the redistricting process incumbents aren't challenged and voters lose out on the competitive elections that keep politicians accountable. Bipartisan redistricting would restore the public's confidence in government and improve the partisan gridlock that has come to define the legislative process.

Senate Bill 742 and numerous other bills, which may be viewed on our Patron Credit page, would have created a bipartisan redistricting commission to submit congressional and state redistricting plans to the General Assembly. Senate Bill 742 passed the Senate by a significant margin, but suffered defeat by voice vote in a subcommittee of House Privileges and Elections.

In 2012, Virginians experienced something totally new in modern Presidential elections – we mattered. But while an unprecedented 3.8 million Virginians voted last year, many waited in line for hours in order to exercise this right. Citizens should not be forced to choose between voting and making it to work on time or forgoing precious time with their

family after a long commute. One way to address this is to allow early voting: 32 states allow any qualified voter to cast a ballot in person before Election Day.

This year, no less than seven bills were introduced to allow early voting in Virginia. A Committee killed each one before reaching the House or Senate floor. Even bills that would have allowed senior citizens to vote early were killed before receiving recorded votes. In choosing to block these bills by unrecorded voice votes, legislators have effectively acted in secret to prevent increased voter participation. If these representatives oppose expanded voting, they should be confident in explaining those views publicly. You may view these bills on our Patron Credit page.

As you can see by the legislative measures described above and scored in the pages that follow, there is much the Virginia League has to be proud of in the 2013 General Assembly Session. These include: reaching out to more members of both political parties than ever before, passage of important protections for the menhaden fishery, establishment of an agricultural net metering program, transportation reforms and defeating numerous attempts at rollbacks and repeals of important and long-standing successful conservation initiatives.

Accomplishments aside, much work remains: true transportation reform that

focuses on solving our infrastructure problems, not just building more roads; substantial progress in the development of renewable energy sources and their related jobs; protecting and strengthening citizens' rights to determine their own local land use; and finally putting to rest the misguided idea that short lived and environmentally damaging ventures like uranium mining and hydro-fracking are progress, but rather far-reaching and irreversible gambles on Virginia's natural resources, economy and quality of life.

The Virginia League is fully committed to accomplishing these goals in the coming years and tackling the unforeseen challenges brought forth by each new General Assembly session and election cycle.

With your continued support, guidance and active participation, we are confident that as we approach the Virginia League's fifteenth anniversary in 2015, we will have even larger and more impactful victories to celebrate.

PHOTO CREDIT: *Clearing Storm on Old Rag* by Matthew Culbertson | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

Legislative Leadership Award 2013

Senator Richard Stuart
Menhaden Fishery Management

Legislative Leadership Award 2013

Delegate Jim Edmunds
Defense of Uranium Mining Ban

Legislative Leadership Award 2013

Delegate Michael Webert
Walking the Walk
Stewardship Beyond The Capitol

The Importance of Bill Patrons

The Virginia League acknowledges the efforts of those legislators who promoted conservation and good government in their 2013 introduced legislation. These patrons received an additional "plus" vote on the Scorecard. Note that only one Patron "extra" credit is allocated per legislator.

Land Use

Delegate Lee Ware (R) – HB 1398;
Land Preservation Tax Credits

Senator Chap Petersen (D) – SB 737;
Navigation of freshwaters

Senator Bill Stanley (R) – SB 748;
Building Revitalization Grants

Transportation

Delegate Chris Jones (R) – HB 1692;
Competing PPTA proposals

Senator Louise Lucas (D) – SB 977;
Competing PPTA proposals

Clean Water

Delegate Danny Marshall (R) – HB 1397;
Scenic River designation, Dan River

Delegate Keith Hodges (R) – HB 1448;
Financing repairs to septic systems

Delegate Scott Lingamfelter (R) – HB 1505;
Loans to improve sewage systems

Delegate Thomas Wright (R) – HB 1753;
Scenic River designation, Meherrin River

Delegate Michael Webert (R) – HB 2039;
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans

Delegate James Edmunds (R) – HB 2220;
Scenic River designation, Banister River

Delegate Ed Scott (R) – HB 2254;
Menhaden fishery management

Delegate David Bulova (D) – HB 2296;
Virginia urban best management practices cost-share program

Delegate Rob Krupicka (D) – HJR 615;
Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act to localities

Senator Dick Black (R) – SB 1054;
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans

Senator Richard Stuart (R) – SB 1291;
Menhaden fishery management

Energy

Delegate Randy Minchew (R) – HB 1695;
Agricultural net metering

Delegate Alfonso Lopez (D) – HB 1946;
Renewable Portfolio Standard reform

Delegate Tom Rust (R) – HB 2180;
Renewable Portfolio Standard

Senator John Edwards (D) – SB 1259;
Renewable Portfolio Standard

Senator Donald McEachin (D) – SB 1269;
Renewable Portfolio Standard reform

Senator Ralph Northam (D) – SJR 331;
Renewable Portfolio Standard study

Good Government

Delegate Joe Morrissey (D) – HB 1353;
Early absentee voting

Delegate Jim Scott (D) – HB 1361;
Early absentee voting

Delegate Vivian Watts (D) – HB 1471;
Assisted living absentee voting

Delegate Ron Villanueva (R) – HB 1520;
Early absentee voting

Delegate Onzlee Ware (D) – HB 1592;
In-person early absentee voting

Delegate Charniele Herring (D) – HB 1922;
Early absentee voting

Delegate Luke Torian (D) – HB 2013;
Early absentee voting

Delegate Lionell Spruill (D) – HB 2119;
Early voting

Senator Janet Howell (D) – SB 702;
Expanded absentee voting

Senator Charles Carrico (R) – SB 722;
Absentee voting, hospitalized voters

Senator Jeff McWaters (R) – SB 873;
Absentee voting, senior citizens

Senator John Miller (D) – SB 742;
Virginia Redistricting Commission

Senator Toddy Puller (D) – SB 830;
Absentee voting, deployed military

Senator Adam Ebbin (D) – SB 967;
Absentee ballot information

Senator Creigh Deeds (D) – SJR 303;
Virginia Redistricting Commission

House Scorecard

✓ = Right ✗ = Wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained

Delegate	District	Party	2013 Score	2012 Score	Cumulative Score Since 2000	HB 1397: Scenic River Designation	HB 1398: Land Preservation Tax Credits	HB 1430: Expands Definitions of Agricultural Operations	HB 1692: Public-Private Transportation Act	HB 1695: Establishes Agricultural Net Metering Program	HB 2180: Renewable Portfolio Standard; Location of Renewable Energy Source	HB 2190: Stormwater Management Ordinance Review	HB 2254: Menhaden Fishery Management	HB 2298: Billboard Relocation	HJR 654: Formally Oppose UN Agenda 21	Patron Credit
Albo	42	R	67%	33%	42%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	NV	
Anderson	51	R	50%	38%	41%	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
BaCote	95	D	100%	100%	73%	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bell, D	20	R	70%	50%	44%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	
Bell, R	58	R	40%	30%	40%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Brink	48	D	100%	100%	89%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bulova	37	D	91%	89%	92%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Byron	22	R	60%	44%	39%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Carr	69	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cline	24	R	40%	33%	36%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Cole	88	R	50%	44%	50%	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Comstock	34	R	70%	33%	47%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	
Cosgrove	78	R	60%	33%	45%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Cox, J	55	R	60%	44%	44%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Cox, K	66	R	60%	33%	41%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Crockett-Stark	6	R	60%	56%	46%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Dance	63	D	78%	89%	76%	NV	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
Dudenhefer	2	R	60%	33%	47%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Edmunds	60	R	64%	63%	56%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Fariss	59	R	60%	44%	53%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Farrell	56	R	25%	29%	27%	✗	✗	✗	✓	AB	AB	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Filler-Corn	41	D	100%	89%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Garrett	23	R	60%	30%	42%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Gilbert	15	R	30%	25%	33%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Greason	32	R	78%	38%	51%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	NV	
Habeeb	8	R	40%	33%	37%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Head	17	R	40%	33%	37%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Helsel	91	R	70%	40%	55%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	
Herring	46	D	100%	89%	94%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hester	89	D	89%	-	89%	NV	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hodges	98	R	64%	30%	48%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓

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Delegate	District	Party	2013 Score	2012 Score	Cumulative Score Since 2000	HB 1397: Scenic River Designation	HB 1398: Land Preservation Tax Credits	HB 1430: Expands Definitions of Agricultural Operations	HB 1692: Public-Private Transportation Act	HB 1695: Establishes Agricultural Net Metering Program	HB 2180: Renewable Portfolio Standard; Location of Renewable Energy Source	HB 2190: Stormwater Management Ordinance Review	HB 2254: Menhaden Fishery Management	HB 2298: Billboard Relocation	HJR 654: Formally Oppose UN Agenda 21	Patron Credit
Hope	47	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Howell, A	90	D	89%	78%	69%	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
Howell, W	28	R	80%	44%	47%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
Hugo	40	R	60%	33%	48%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
laquinto	84	R	60%	44%	46%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Ingram	62	R	60%	50%	41%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
James	80	D	80%	88%	78%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
Joannou	79	D	70%	38%	47%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	
Johnson	4	D	60%	56%	46%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Jones	76	R	55%	50%	41%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Keam	35	D	100%	89%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kilgore	1	R	60%	50%	37%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Knight	81	R	60%	40%	39%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Kory	38	D	100%	100%	100%	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Krupicka	45	D	100%	-	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Landes	25	R	60%	44%	47%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	
LeMunyon	67	R	60%	56%	55%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Lewis	100	D	80%	100%	85%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
Lingamfelter	31	R	55%	40%	52%	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Lopez	49	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Loupassi	68	R	67%	44%	44%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	NV	
Marshall, D	14	R	64%	33%	35%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Marshall, R	13	R	56%	44%	61%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	NV	✓	✗	✗	
Massie	72	R	60%	44%	41%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
May	33	R	60%	50%	53%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
McClellan	71	D	100%	100%	97%	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
McQuinn	70	D	100%	100%	90%	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Merricks	16	R	60%	30%	38%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Miller	50	R	60%	22%	37%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Minchew	10	R	90%	44%	68%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	NV	✓
Morefield	3	R	40%	67%	43%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Morris	64	R	50%	44%	47%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Morrissey	74	D	82%	89%	90%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
O'Bannon	73	R	60%	40%	44%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
O'Quinn	5	R	60%	44%	53%	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	

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Orrock	54	R	60%	60%	45%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Peace	97	R	63%	56%	52%	✗	✓	AB	✓	AB	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	
Plum	36	D	100%	90%	92%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pogge	96	R	50%	40%	36%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Poindexter	9	R	60%	44%	38%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Purkey	82	R	60%	33%	40%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Putney	19	I	60%	44%	40%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Ramadan	87	R	60%	44%	53%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Ransone	99	R	33%	30%	32%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	AB	✗	✗	
Robinson	27	R	60%	50%	48%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Rush	7	R	40%	33%	37%	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Rust	86	R	70%	33%	59%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	NV	✓
Scott, E	30	R	55%	56%	45%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Scott, J	53	D	100%	100%	90%	NV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sherwood	29	R	60%	44%	38%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Sickles	43	D	100%	90%	94%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spruill	77	D	70%	89%	65%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	NV	✓
Stolle	83	R	70%	45%	45%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	
Surovell	44	D	90%	89%	95%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	
Tata	85	R	50%	40%	46%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Torian	52	D	82%	89%	92%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
Toscano	57	D	100%	100%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tyler	75	D	100%	89%	80%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Villanueva	21	R	64%	44%	47%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Ward	92	D	100%	100%	81%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ware, L	65	R	55%	70%	49%	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Ware, O	11	D	90%	78%	69%	NV	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Watson	93	R	50%	33%	42%	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Watts	39	D	100%	78%	83%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Webert	18	R	60%	67%	63%	✓	✓	✗	✓	AB	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Wilt	26	R	50%	44%	42%	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Wright	61	R	63%	50%	43%	✓	✓	✗	✓	NV	NV	✗	✓	✗	NV	✓
Yancey	94	R	60%	44%	53%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	
Yost	12	R	70%	30%	50%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	
Average			69%	58%	58%											

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Alexander	5	D	100%	88%	83%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Barker	39	D	91%	89%	85%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	
Black	13	R	42%	25%	36%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	AB	✗		✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Blevins	14	R	75%	50%	39%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
Carrico	40	R	50%	36%	35%	✗	✗		✓	✗	✗	✗		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Colgan	29	D	92%	50%	57%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Deeds	25	D	83%	78%	84%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Ebbin	30	D	100%	100%	98%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edwards	21	D	92%	91%	83%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Favola	31	D	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Garrett	22	R	45%	36%	50%	✗	✓		✓	✗	✗	✗		✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	
Hanger	24	R	75%	55%	41%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
Herring	33	D	100%	91%	87%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Howell	32	D	92%	100%	85%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Locke	2	D	82%	88%	85%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	
Lucas	18	D	83%	78%	71%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Marsden	37	D	92%	100%	85%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Marsh	16	D	82%	78%	71%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Martin	11	R	58%	36%	33%	✗	✓		✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
McDougle	4	R	64%	44%	44%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✗	✗		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
McEachin	9	D	100%	91%	88%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McWaters	8	R	75%	36%	53%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✗	AB	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Miller	1	D	100%	73%	79%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Newman	23	R	42%	30%	31%	✗	✓		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	
Norment	3	R	73%	45%	46%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	AB	
Northam	6	D	85%	64%	77%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Obenshain	26	R	46%	42%	39%	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	
Petersen	34	D	85%	100%	87%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Puckett	38	D	85%	62%	64%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Puller	36	D	92%	89%	77%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reeves	17	R	64%	56%	60%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✗	✗		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
Ruff	15	R	75%	40%	35%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
Saslaw	35	D	100%	45%	66%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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✓ = Right ✗ = Wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained

Delegate	District	Party	2013 Score	2012 Score	Cumulative Score Since 2000	HB 1397: Scenic River Designation	HB 1398: Land Preservation Tax Credits	HB 1430: Agricultural Operations Definition	HB 1695: Establishes Agricultural Net Metering Program	HB 2298: Billboard Relocation	SB 737: Freshwaters Open to Non-Motorized Vessels	SB 742: Establishes Virginia Redistricting Commission	SB 797: Prohibits Utilities From Installing Advanced Meters	SB 977: Public-Private Transportation Act	SB 1259: Renewable Portfolio Standard; Location of Renewable Energy Source	SB 1269: Renewable Portfolio Standard Reform	SB 1291: Menhaden Fishery Management	SJR 281: Limits Land Preservation Tax Credit Program	Patron Credit
Smith	19	R	55%	33%	36%	✗	✓		✓	✗	✗	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	
Stanley	20	R	71%	36%	52%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Stosch	12	R	75%	36%	41%	✓	✓		✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
Stuart	28	R	69%	33%	52%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Vogel	27	R	80%	100%	85%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓		✓	NV	✗	✓	✓	
Wagner	7	R	67%	50%	37%	✗	✓		✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
Watkins	10	R	77%	50%	40%	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
Average			78%	63%	62%														

PHOTO CREDIT: *Yorktown Creek in the Fog* by Robert Hunter | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia



House Districts



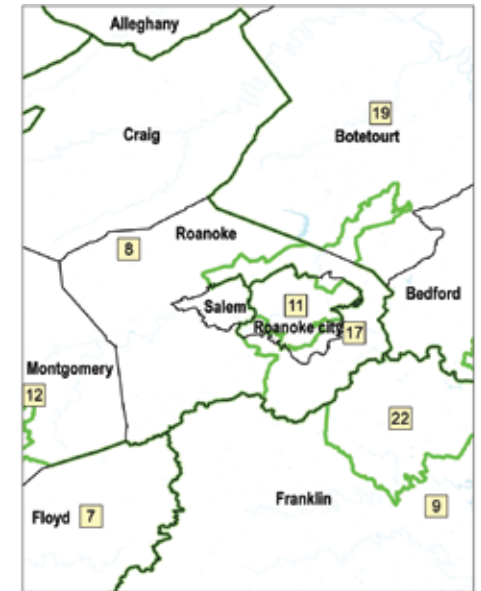
Northern Virginia



Tidewater Area



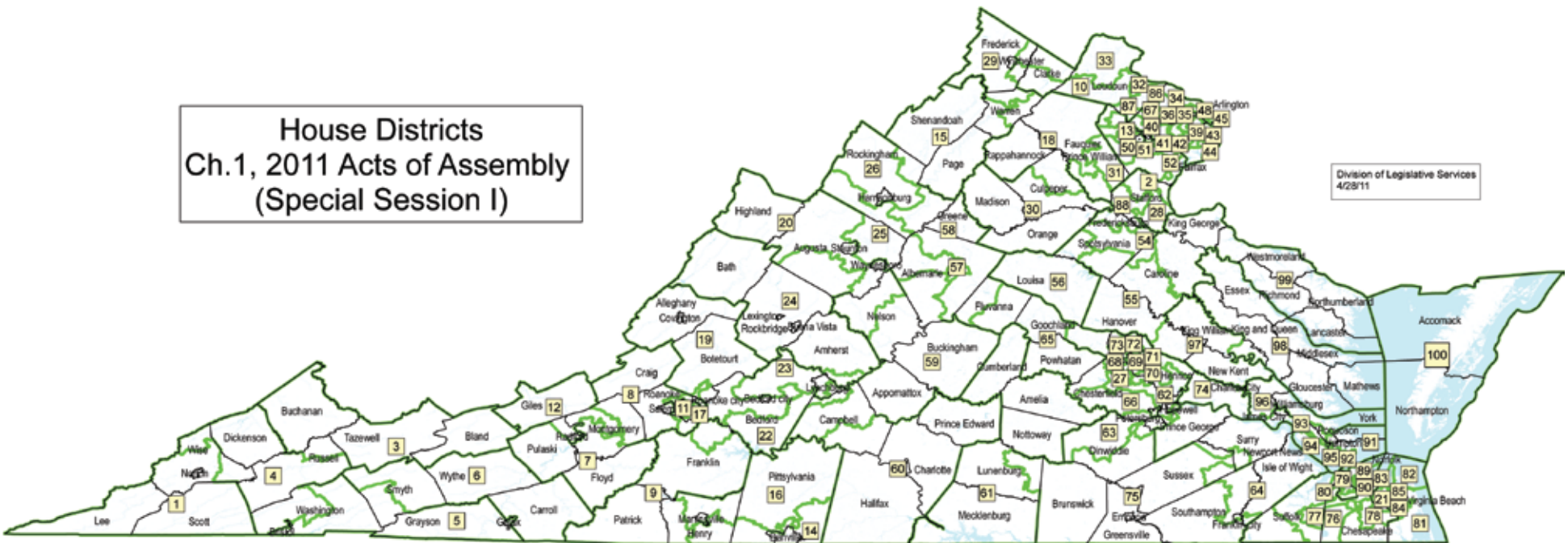
Central Virginia



Roanoke Area

House Districts
Ch.1, 2011 Acts of Assembly
(Special Session I)

Division of Legislative Services
4/28/11



Senate Districts



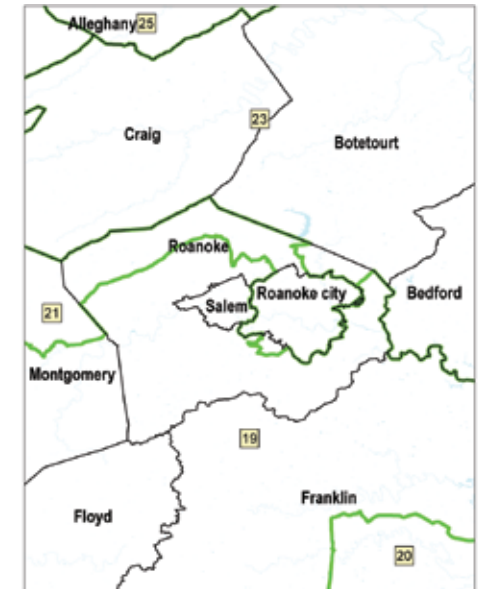
Northern Virginia



Tidewater Area

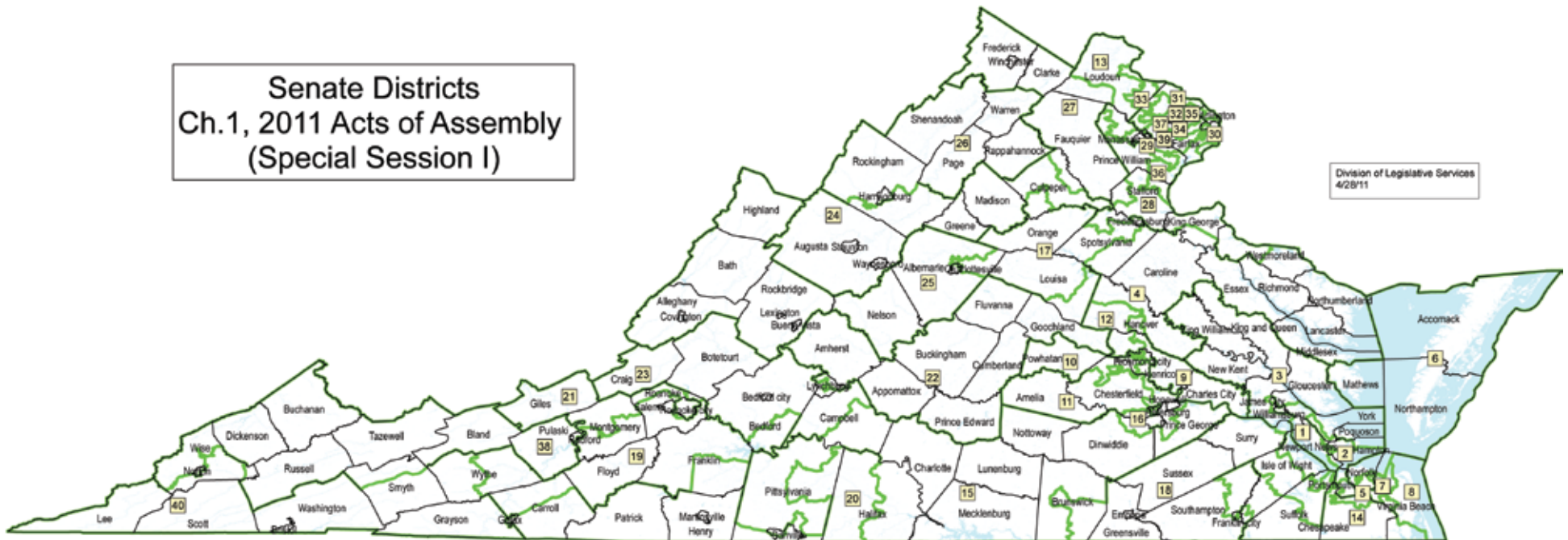


Central Virginia



Roanoke Area

Senate Districts
Ch.1, 2011 Acts of Assembly
(Special Session I)





KEEP the BAN

In their multi-year fight to lift Virginia's 31-year ban on uranium mining, the industry and foreign investors hit a roadblock in the 2013 Virginia General Assembly. Our elected Delegates and Senators heard their constituents loud and clear – Keep The Ban! Thanks to the efforts of a truly diverse and unique coalition of local governments, business leaders, faith and community groups, medical professionals and conservationists, the representatives we elect to stand up for our interests at the Capitol in Richmond now know that the risks of mining uranium far outweigh any rewards.

Lacking the votes to pass the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, **Senate Bill 1353** (Watkins, R-Midlothian) was withdrawn and **House Bill 2330** (Miller, R-Manassas) was never heard in committee. Both would have effectively repealed Virginia's ban on the mining of uranium and opened the

Commonwealth to the long list of known and even longer list of unknown consequences to our water, our health and our heritage.

This was a great victory for all involved and brightly underlines the fact that conservation issues are not partisan, regional or counter to our economic interests. A broad array of localities, Delegates, Senators and leaders from every sector

and political persuasion came together to prove that responsible management of our water, air and land is in the best interest of the Commonwealth's natural resources, the health of its citizens and the economic prosperity of all Virginians.

But the fight isn't over. Uranium proponents are already encouraging Governor McDonnell to take unilateral action to develop uranium mining regulations before his term ends in January 2014, without General Assembly approval. With millions already spent on scientific and economic studies, the verdict is in: the risks associated with mining uranium in Virginia are twice as high as any of the possible rewards. Circumventing the legislature to draft uranium mining regulations would not only be bad for our public health and economic future, it would be bad for our democracy. The citizens have said no, the legislature has

said no, the Governor should respect these decisions.

Supporters of the uranium ban must remain active and involved, especially in this important election year. With candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and House of Delegates on the ballot – be sure to ask them, "Where do you stand on the uranium mining ban?"

"... It is not difficult to conclude the Academy is sending clear warning signals that mining and processing uranium in a wet climate subject to flooding and extreme weather events in a densely populated area is a very, very bad idea. ..."

— **Letter to General Assembly Colleagues from:** Senator Frank Ruff (R-Clarksville), Delegate James Edmunds (R-Halifax), Delegate Danny Marshall (R-Danville), Delegate Donald Merricks (R-Chatham) and Delegate Thomas Wright (R-Victoria).



Flooding at Proposed Uranium Mining and Milling Site.

In Honor of Senator Yvonne B. Miller

Last year the Commonwealth lost a champion and a trailblazer in Senator Yvonne B. Miller. A powerful advocate for fairness and good government, Senator Miller served Hampton Roads with unmatched compassion and pride. Senator Miller was the first African-American woman to serve in the House of Delegates, the first African-American woman elected to the Virginia Senate and the first Virginia woman to chair a Senate committee. She was a frequent supporter of important conservation issues, scoring a

perfect 100 percent on the Virginia League's 2011 Conservation Scorecard. Though saddened by her passing, Virginians will continue to be served by the legacy of Senator Miller for generations to come.



200 Years of Legislative Experience

With the loss of Senator Yvonne B. Miller and the announced retirement (at the time of this printing) of 9 members of the General Assembly, next year's session will have lost over 200 years of legislative experience. Between Delegates Lacey Putney (I-Bedford), Joe Johnson (D-Abingdon) and Anne Crockett-Stark (R-Wytheville), the western half of the Commonwealth will lose nearly a century of legislative tenure. Virginia Beach alone will lose over 80 years of legislative experience with the retirements of Republican Delegates Bob Tata, Sal Iaquinto and Bob Purkey, as well as Senator Harry Blevins (R-Chesapeake). After over two decades representing Falls Church and parts of Fairfax

County, Delegate Jim Scott (D-Merrifield) announced his retirement this year. Scott's steadfast support of conservation over the years has earned him numerous "legislative hero" awards from the Virginia League; his leadership and cordial demeanor will be missed in Richmond. Delegate Don Merricks (R-Chatham) has also announced his departure; a small business owner and lifelong Pittsylvania County resident, Delegate Merricks has been a leader to keep the ban on uranium mining and milling in the Commonwealth. The Virginia League wishes these retiring legislators all the best in their future endeavors and thanks them for their service to the Commonwealth.

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters protects resources important to all Virginians: clean air and water, thriving communities and rural landscapes, productive farms and forests, historic battlefields and Main Streets, and ample public lands and recreation. We secure good public policy at the Capitol, hold Virginia's elected officials accountable for their positions on conservation issues and elect pro-conservation candidates to office.

The Virginia League is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization and gifts to it and its Political Action Committee are not tax deductible.

"If we've learned any lessons during the past few decades, perhaps the most important is that preservation of our environment is not a partisan challenge; it's common sense. Our physical health, our social happiness, and our economic well-being will be sustained only by all of us working in partnership as thoughtful, effective stewards of our natural resources."

— President Ronald Reagan,
on signing annual report of Council on
Environmental Quality, July 11, 1984

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