

Virginia General Assembly Conservation Scorecard

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2015 Scorecard Acknowledgements

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Fast-Paced, Short Session Returns Significant Achievements

Now that the 2015 General Assembly session is behind us, the Virginia League of Conservation Voters is proud to report that significant steps were made with respect to clean energy, transportation, securing vital Chesapeake Bay funding and protecting against the worst of attacks on land conservation. In just a short fortysix days, the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates took up hundreds of bills and passed a budget on time and in a noteworthy bipartisan fashion.

Without the intense focus on Medicaid Expansion this session, legislators' attention turned to addressing a projected \$2.4 billion budget shortfall and passing comprehensive ethics reform – passing both nearly unanimously. In an important election year that will decide the make-up of both the House and Senate, it is not surprising the amount of gridlock was kept at a minimum.

From a conservation perspective, Virginia LCV heavily anticipated the hostile and hyperbolic attacks on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan – which provides a great tool for Virginia to create jobs in clean energy and reduce our impact on climate change. With a subcommittee composed to stage this political posturing, Virginia LCV led a successful campaign to defeat multiple bills that would have derailed any serious effort for Virginia to comply with this proposed rule. However, what was not anticipated were the seized-upon opportunities that arose to offensively secure important achievements in solar and energy efficiency.

You will find in the 2015 Conservation Scorecard that much of the story to be told from this session lies behind the spotlight of recorded votes. Our ability to make bad bills bearable and to obtain key amendments to legislation was a huge part of our success. Conservation leaders in both the House and the Senate are responsible for and deserve credit for many of these conservation victories and are recognized throughout, respectively.

One important note about this year's scorecard is the unusual level of party unity that was displayed on both sides of the aisle. While this may seem abnormal, both parties are typically more unified in important election years and this trend can be seen across any issue spectrum. Additionally, the 2015 scorecard highlights a growing tendency of lacking transparency in how many bills introduced at the General Assembly are killed.

As November quickly approaches, Virginia LCV is focused on electing a solid conservation majority. All 140 seats of the legislature will be on the ballot – and with notable retirements in key swing districts – control for the Virginia Senate is again up for grabs after changing party control twice since 2013. We will work hard to find out where candidates stand on conservation issues and work to make conservation a priority in their races.

On behalf of the Virginia League of Conservation Voters, thank you for your continued support and commitment to conservation values in the Commonwealth. Without you, our work would not be possible.

Mike Town Executive Director Virginia League of Conservation Voters





Bay/Foxwells by aura S. Dent of Callao | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia



Delegate Michael Webert



Delegate Ron Villanueva



Senator Dick Saslaw



Delegate Chris Jones



Senator Emmett Hanger



Senator Donald McEachin



Senator John Watkins



Delegate Alfonso Lopez

2015 Legislative Leadership Awards

Delegate Michael Webert Senator Emmett Hanger

Delegate Webert & Senator Hanger are recognized for their Legislative Leadership in securing cost-share funding for farmers in the Commonwealth to implement best management practices, helping protect the quality of our rivers, streams and Chesapeake Bay.

Delegate Ron Villanueva Senator Donald McEachin

Delegate Villanueva & Senator McEachin are recognized for their Legislative Leadership in patroning legislation to create a market-based system to lower the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas emissions, while creating funding to assist localities as they are faced with the realities of climate change.

Senator Dick Saslaw

Senator Saslaw is recognized for his unwavering leadership in the Virginia Senate during the 2015 session. Committed to recognizing the interests of all parties involved, Senator Saslaw led efforts to convene stakeholder consensus on significant achievements in clean energy and energy efficiency.

Senator John Watkins

Senator Watkins is recognized for his steadfast leadership and service in the Virginia Senate. In his last session, Senator Watkins displayed great responsiveness to his constituents' support of the Clean Power Plan and made sure their interests were well represented.

Delegate Chris Jones

Delegate Jones is recognized for his Legislative Leadership in patroning transportation legislation to improve Virginia's funding formulas and Public Private Transportation Act. Both of these bills took great steps forward to improving an issue that is so important to the Commonwealth's communities, economy, and way of life.

Delegate Alfonso Lopez

Delegate Lopez is recognized for his Legislative Leadership in establishing the "Virginia Environment & Renewable Energy Caucus." This bipartisan caucus was established to bring clean energy and other conservation issues to the forefront of conversations at the General Assembly and to make meaningful progress in our legislative efforts.

Virginia LCV: Conservation's Political Voice

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters is the political voice of conservation in the Commonwealth. We work tirelessly to protect all of Virginia's treasured natural resources – clean air and water, thriving communities and rural landscapes, productive farms and forests, historic battlefields and Main Streets, and ample public lands and open spaces.

To do this, we advocate for and secure strong public policy at the state level, hold elected officials accountable for their positions on conservation issues, and endorse conservation-minded candidates to state office. Of Virginia's conservation community, Virginia LCV is unique in that we provide the political power of bringing legislators' records on conservation issues to the forefront of their campaigns and the minds of their voters.

Conservation Accountability

Virginia LCV's annual Conservation Scorecard provides the only comprehensive look at how legislators voted on the year's most important conservation issues. From land conservation, to water quality, to transportation, to energy, the scorecard provides an inside take on what happened in Richmond across a full spectrum of issues. Further, the scorecard provides a distinctive and useful tool for voters as they choose who represents their conservation values in Richmond. As a constituent and a voter, it is important for you to let your elected officials know you saw their scores. Thank those who helped protect Virginia's natural resources and let others who did not know they can do better.

Conservation Endorsements

As conservation's political voice in the Commonwealth, Virginia LCV proudly endorses and seeks to elect and reelect candidates to office who prioritize conservation. In addition to using the Conservation Scorecard, we issue an inclusive candidate questionnaire, research the dynamics of races, and lead candidate interviews to determine which candidates deserve our "conservation seal of approval."

Virginia LCV's endorsed candidates receive our guidance on how to make conservation issues a priority in their races, our financial support, and our outreach efforts to ensure conservation voters in their districts know of our endorsement. All of these factors are important to seeing our candidates win and to seeing a conservation majority in the legislature.

Conservation Advocacy

After candidates are sworn in, Virginia LCV staff and members work diligently to advocate for conservation values in the General Assembly. Our efforts are essential to guaranteeing legislators are best educated on the importance and value of protecting our natural resources and safeguarding our clean air, clean water and open spaces. The more they hear from us, and especially from you, the more victorious we will be.

Join Our Team

Check in at valcv.org to keep updated on what's happening with conservation issues in Virginia. There you can take important conservation actions, get updated on Virginia LCV news, and follow our positions on critical legislation during the General Assembly session.

Like the Virginia LCV at facebook.com/VirginiaLCV

Follow us on Twitter @VirginiaLCV

who

5 Virginia League of Conservation Voters

Getting the Score

As an exclusive accountability tool for conservation voters, it is important to know how we arrive at the final scores for each General Assembly session. The Conservation Scorecard gives you a comprehensive understanding of how your elected leaders represented your conservation values in Richmond.

While some sessions carry more contentious, high-stakes debates than others, our scorecard allows you to distinguish between the rhetoric and the reality of a legislator's record by providing you detailed summaries of what happened inside the State Capitol each session.

How the Votes Were Chosen

With hundreds of bills introduced every session, Virginia LCV carefully tracks and takes positions on all legislation that impacts conservation values. As legislation evolves throughout the lawmaking process, we communicate our position at every step along the way – from subcommittee, to full committee, to the floor of each chamber.

After session's end, we closely examine the votes and determine a selection of votes which best illustrates how legislators prioritized conservation issues. While some votes are easier than others, our look into what's in and behind the spotlight gives an encompassing representation of conservation performance.

How the Scores Were Calculated

For every vote recorded of the chosen legislation, legislators receive one point for voting along with our communicated position. The number of "correct" votes is averaged for each legislator, which generates his or her percentage score for the session. Legislators who sponsored bills supported by Virginia LCV receive a patron credit of one additional point that is averaged into his or her final percentage.

Although some legislators perform more poorly than others from year to year, it is important that they hear from you your encouragement to do better. Conversely, we must not take our Legislative Heroes and Leaders for granted – let them know you appreciate their commitments to conservation values and look forward to their continued support.



2015 Legislative Heroes

Virginia LCV Legislative Heroes demonstrate a strong dedication and prioritization of our conservation values. This year we recognize thirty Delegates and fifteen Senators for voting with Virginia LCV one hundred percent of the time. Of the hundreds of bills these legislators vote on every session, a special acknowledgment is deserved for getting the conservation vote right every time. On behalf of conservation voters in Virginia, we thank the Legislative Heroes pictured and look forward to their continued commitment to protecting the Commonwealth's precious natural resources.

Scores are the average percentage based on the available recorded votes. Not all 100% scores equate to Legislative Hero status.

7 Virginia League of Conservation Voters



nator John Edwards

Senator Donald McEachin



Senator Barbara Favola





Senator Rosalyn Dance



Senator Janet Howell





Senator Adam Ebbir

Senator Lynwood Lewis

Senator Louise Lucas



Senator Jennifer Wextor





Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn





Delegate Matthew James



Delegate Charniele Herring





Senator John Miller

Delegate Mamye BaCote









Delegate Daun Hester



Delegate Betsy Carr

Delegate Patrick Hope









Delegate Kaye Kory



Delegate Jennifer McClellan



Delegate Sam Rasoul



Delegate Scott Surovell



Delegate Mark Sickles

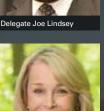
Delegate David Toscano



Delegate Marcus Simon

Delegate Roslyn Tyler

Delegate Delores McQuinn







Delegate Ken Plum



Delegate Lionell Spruill



Delegate Jeion Ward



Delegate Rip Sullivan

DIT: 78th Street Bullies by Dakota Flora of Midlothian | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia

Delegate Monty Masor

Delegate Joe Preston

Delegate Vivian Watts



Virginia LCV Legislative Leaders scored between seventy-five and one hundred percent on this years scorecard. Four Delegates and seven Senators earned this recognition for making conservation a priority.

Legislative Leaders in the **Virginia Senate**

Senator George Barker – 80% Senator Emmett Hanger – 75% Senator Mamie Locke – 80% Senator David Marsden – 86% Senator Chap Petersen – 88% Senator Walter Stosch - 80% Senator John Watkins – 88%

Legislative Leaders in the **House of Delegates**

Delegate David Albo - 80% Delegate Jeff Campbell – 80% Delegate Glen Davis – 80% Delegate James Edmunds - 83%

Conservation Scorecard 2015 8













Transparency in the General Assembly

In every Conservation Scorecard, many bills that are introduced are never talked about. As an important accountability metric, we limit the bills we choose from to those that receive a recorded vote. This leaves a significant portion of bills, often those we support, to simply vanish as if they never existed and without a way to hold anyone accountable for their defeat. As a part-time legislature, where most members simultaneously hold fulltime professional jobs, Virginia's General Assembly operates in a very efficient manner. However, as the oldest continuing law-making body in the New World, we can do better to serve Virginians in a more open and transparent fashion.

Since the conclusion of the 2015 General Assembly session, multiple news outlets across the state have drawn attention to the lack of transparency in how legislation is often killed in committee or subcommittee without a recorded vote – or in some cases without a vote at all – thanks to a report from Transparency Virginia – a coalition made up of over twenty-five nonprofit groups. Although not a member of the coalition, Virginia LCV very much shares their belief that legislative process in Virginia must be as open and transparent to the public as possible.

One of the committees highlighted in their report is the House Committee on

Commerce and Labor. This committee hears almost all energy legislation that comes through the House of Delegates. In fact, there is even a Special Subcommittee on Energy. This subcommittee had twenty-six House Bills referred to it. All of these bills were scheduled to be heard in one afternoon after the conclusion of the full committee making for a long afternoon from daily life should you want to be in attendance at this public meeting. After a lengthy meeting, only six of these bills were recommended to be reported from the full committee – with the rest of the others either being "left in committee" or tabled by a voice vote. This means more than seventy-six percent of the bills heard in this subcommittee were either killed without a recorded vote or a vote at all.

Not an uncommon occurrence, a specific example of this opaque process of killing legislation can be seen with a bill Virginia LCV worked to have introduced this session. Senate Bill 1154 from Senator Wexton (D-Leesburg) offered to tighten the time frame in which polluters have to notify the Department of Environmental Quality and the public of a spill into state waters what could have impacts to the public's health. As the bill moved through the Senate, no public opposition to the bill was raised and the bill passed the full Senate unanimously. However, the bill died with an unrecorded voice vote of five legislators after being referred to the Subcommittee on Chesapeake of the full Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources.

This lack of public transparency does a disservice to the constituents legislators are sent to Richmond to represent. It makes watchdog organizations like the Virginia League of Conservation Voters' job more difficult in accurately portraying how legislators performed on issues voters consider very important. As we continue to work to secure conservation victories at the General Assembly, we look to you to share with your elected leaders the importance of an open and transparent legislative process. Trust and accountability are two things that make our democracy so great. It is up to us to make sure it stays that way.





The Legislation: In and Behind the Spotlight

Conservation issues at the 2015 General Assembly largely focused on clean energy and protecting against attacks on the EPA's Clean Power Plan – a vital tool for creating jobs, growing our clean energy sectors and fighting climate change. However, as legislation was being introduced leading up to session, the Virginia League of Conservation Voters took positions on a over one hundred bills across the conservation spectrum – both in support and opposition. However, most of these are not scored in the scorecard in large part because they were killed without a recorded vote, or in some cases, any vote at all. This lack of transparency in the legislative process makes it difficult to choose which votes to score. Without a vote, there is no one to be held accountable for killing sound conservation policy – obviously the motive in doing so in such a manner.

Although legislation was introduced that warranted strong opposition, our lobbying efforts and reliance on the commitment of constituents to contact their legislators ended up making a huge difference. In the end, we were able to make bad legislation palatable, and secured prodigious advances in clean energy along the way. Below is closer look at what is in and behind the spotlight of the 2015 Conservation Scorecard.

Land Conservation

Behind the Spotlight:

In a continuing trend of attacks on voluntary conservation easements essential to protecting many working farms and open spaces across the Commonwealth, House Bill 1488 was introduced by Delegate Brenda Pogge (R-Norge) and aimed to dramatically alter the process in which disputes over easement terms are handled. In addition to disqualifying Virginia from the use of many federal grant programs, such as those existing under the federal Farm Bill, HB 1488 would have removed the traditional judicial jurisdiction to resolve legal disputes and instead inserted the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to act as mediator of disputes. Because of the strong opposition of Virginia LCV and other conservation groups, the bill was considerably weakened to authorize a party of an easement contract to request the Virginia Land Conservation Trust Foundation to use the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act to review any disagreement that may arise.



The other significant development in land conservation this session surrounded the Land Preservation Tax Credit – a program that is responsible for the protection of hundreds of thousands of acres in Virginia. Initial budget proposals and accompanying legislation intended to reduce the amount of tax credit an individual can claim per year and to reduce the overall amount of tax credit there is to be distributed. With a difficult budget shortfall to overcome in revising this year's budget, several tax credits were on the table to be amended or cut completely – one of which was the Land Preservation Tax Credit (LPC). Delegate Lee Ware (R-Powhatan) - a long-time recognized champion of land conservation and the LPC - and Senator John Watkins (R-Powhatan) introduced and passed companion legislation that offered a compromise for reducing the amount of tax credit to be claimed, but at such levels that do not drastically harm the value of the LPC program.

Moreover, budget proposals also suggested increasing the transfer fee for transferring or selling the credits from the LPC, a great incentive for participation in the program and for the conservation of countless family farms. However, thanks to budget amendments from Delegate Michael Webert (R-Marshall) and Senator Emmett Hanger (R-Mount Solon), the fee remained at its current level.

Water Quality

Legislation Behind the Spotlight: This year, Virginia LCV led efforts to revamp how Virginia regulates toxics. While multiple bills were broadly supported in the Virginia Senate, our efforts were stalled in the House of Delegates.

A commonsense proposal from Senator Jennifer Wexton (D-Leesburg) to strengthen Virginia's reporting requirements regarding health-impacting spills into our waterways passed the Senate unanimously and without stakeholder opposition, but was tabled by a voice vote in the House Subcommittee on Chesapeake after hyperbolic opposition from polluter lobbyists.

Senator Donald McEachin (D-Henrico) patroned legislation that would have directed the Department of Environmental Quality to gather the current information the agency already contains concerning toxic waste sites in the Commonwealth into a publicly accessible, centralized list to better serve and educate families about what's in and near their communities. This bill passed the Senate overwhelmingly, but was left in the House Committee on Appropriations due to the bill's projected fiscal impact.

Lastly, significant Chesapeake Bay funding in the amount of \$10 million was included – thanks to Delegate Webert and Senator Hanger amendments – for agricultural best management practices in the final budget signed by the Governor. This is a huge success to help continue the tireless work being done by responsible farmers across the Commonwealth to better protect and restore our Bay.

Legislation In the Spotlight:

✓ SB 1071 – Increase in Penalty Fines Senator Donald McEachin (D-Henrico)

Senate Bill 1071 came after a 2014 report from the University of Richmond highlighted gaps and weaknesses in Virginia's laws and regulations on toxics. One of the suggestions that came from the report was to increase the maximum civil penalty fine the Department of Environmental Quality can leverage against polluters, which is what SB 1071 aimed to do.

The current cap was set in 1996 at \$10,000 and has never been raised. Though most cases are resolved with voluntary settlements, SB 1071 aimed to strengthen DEQ's tools to more properly ensure adequate restitution by increasing the cap to \$25,000.

This legislation passed the Senate with no stakeholder opposition and bipartisan support, yet was derailed in a House Subcommittee on Chesapeake after a new statement of opposition from the pollution lobby. *House Chesapeake* Subcommittee Recommendation: (2-Y, 4-N); Senate Passage: (21-Y, 17-N)

✗ HJ 666 – Opposition to Clean Water Act

Delegate Israel O'Quinn (R-Bristol)

House Joint Resolution 666 aimed to have the General Assembly's opposition to the EPA's "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule be recognized by the federal government. The EPA has proposed a clarifying definition to more accurately identify the navigable waters protected under the Clean Water Act, an essential tool to help farmers, developers and local governments protect our waterways.

Although the bill passed the House of Delegates, the Senate Committee on Rules defeated this unnecessary legislation after doing the same to a similar Senate version. *House Adoption: (64-Y, 31-N)*

Transportation

Legislation Behind the Spotlight: Though one of the two most significant transportation bills of the session – both patroned by Delegate Chris Jones (R-Suffolk) and supported by Virginia LCV – is scored in this year's scorecard, the second made meaningful steps in improving Virginia's Public-Private

Transportation Act (PPTA). In an effort to prevent future debacles like the one from the last administration's U.S. 460 deal – which wasted over \$300 million on government contracts on a road never built – House Bill 1886 passed, aiming to strengthen the trust and accountability surrounding the PPTA process. By requiring the determination of the public's interest of proposed projects and certifying that interest does not change throughout the procurement process from the Secretary of Transportation, taxpayers can feel assured their dollars are being spent responsibly and in a way that best serves them. While there is still much to be done in order to perfect the PPTA. this is a much-needed and promising step in the right direction.

Legislation In the Spotlight: HB 1887 – Transportation Funding Delegate Chris Jones (R-Suffolk)

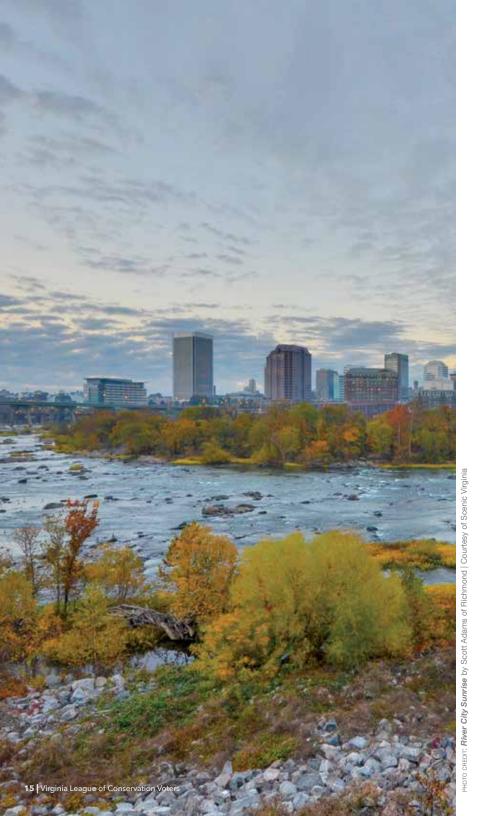
House Bill 1887 became one of the two priority transportation bills of the 2015 session. Virginia LCV and other conservation partners supported this legislation as it made its way through the General Assembly. While the legislation changed significantly throughout the process, our support depended on key components that remained within the final version of the bill.

HB 1887 revamps Virginia's highway funding allocation formula to shift to new funding for bridge repair and highway maintenance, high-priority projects, and highway construction grants. This legislation also helps to plug a substantial projected gap in transit funding by providing an additional \$40 million per year for transit capital projects and authorizes the Department of Rail and Public Transportation to enter into agreements aimed to improve passenger rail service. This important legislation increases the objectivity of the Commonwealth Transportation Board to make the best decisions for the Commonwealth by limiting a governor's ability to remove members from the Board.

As scored in each chamber of the legislature, HB 1887 passed with overwhelming support and was signed by the Governor. *House Passage: (96-Y, 2-N); Senate Passage: (35-Y, 4-N)*

Energy and Climate Change

Legislation Behind the Spotlight: A controversial proposal from Senator Frank Wagner (R-Virginia Beach) in Senate Bill 1349 is one bill that is not scored in the scorecard. Referred to as the "Dominion Rate Freeze Bill," the legislation sought to discontinue annual



rate reviews of utilities before the State Corporation Commission while "freezing" the base rates for consumers over the next five years as the utilities shift to less carbon intensive resources under the Clean Power Plan. In its introduced form and initially before the Senate, SB 1349 contained unnecessary and hostile language re garding the CPP and contained no provisions for commitments to renewables or energy efficiency – demanding Virginia LCV's opposition to the bill.

However, we and our partners gathered with the stakeholders involved, including Dominion, to work with leaders in the Senate to secure several positive floor amendments –allowing the removal of our opposition to the legislation. The amendments included removing the excessive and negative language regarding the CPP and inserting language that declared solar energy in the public's interest and called for utilities to establish pilot programs to assist low-income, elderly, and disabled individuals with energy efficiency measures.

The success of these amendments were complimented and underscored by Delegate Tim Hugo's (R-Centreville) House Bill 2267 – which created the Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority, a large priority of Governor McAuliffe's for the 2015 session. Once established, the Authority is charged with finding ways to grow Virginia's solar industry, in addition to assisting with the planned development of 400 megawatts of solar by the year 2020.

The last significant energy legislation behind the spotlight is legislation passed from Delegate Jennifer McClellan (D-Richmond) and Senator Rosalyn Dance (D-Petersburg) to double the allowed size of nonresidential net energy metering projects. This and all of the legislation mentioned are huge victories for supporters of clean energy in Virginia.

Legislation In the Spotlight:

✓ HB 1297 – Machinery & Tools Tax in the Production of Renewable Energy Delegate Sam Rasoul (D-Roanoke)

House Bill 1297 directs governing bodies of counties, cities and towns to create a new and separate tax classification for machinery and tools used directly in producing or generating renewable energy. By creating this separate classification, localities can set a rate that better incentivizes and increases the competitiveness of the renewable energy industry – all while spurring economic growth at the local level. This bill comfortably made its way through the legislature with broad bipartisan support and was approved by the Governor. *House Passage: (88-Y, 11-N); Senate Passage: (27-Y, 10-N)*

✔ HB 1446 – Clean Energy Financing Programs

Delegate Danny Marshall's (R-Danville)

House Bill 1446 expands the parameters of local ordinances used to finance energy improvements under Virginia's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to include renewable energy production and distribution facilities, energy usage efficiency improvements and water usage efficiency improvements. This legislation enables localities to create PACE loan programs to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency measures for commercial and multi-family dwelling properties. This bill creates a vast economic opportunity for localities to attract new businesses and to expand existing ones in their communities.

HB 1446 and its companion legislation from Senator Watkins passed the General Assembly with only a handful of dissenting votes, sending a strong message that Virginia is open and welcoming to growing our clean energy industry. Governor McAuliffe has signed this bill into law. *House Passage: (95-Y, 4-N)*

X HB 2291 – Clean Power Plan Implementation

Delegate Israel O'Quinn (R-Bristol) House Bill 2291 was one of the many bills filed to weaken and restrict Virginia's ability to create a strong state implementation plan under the EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) rule – which is to be finalized in the summer of 2015. Virginia LCV and other organizations in the conservation community strongly anticipated such inflammatory attacks on the CPP well in advance of session's first day. Needless to say, we, with help of conservationminded constituents all across the Commonwealth, were well prepared to defend efforts to cut dangerous carbon pollution that fuels climate change and to support the vast economic opportunities offered through a strong state implementation plan.

This legislation specifically would have removed executive branch and agency authority to devise a state plan by requiring any plan to be approved by both houses of the legislature. This would have prolonged the development of any plan and only increased the risk of having the federal government step in to create a plan on behalf of Virginia.

After a close examination and parliamentary inquiry from Minority Leader David Toscano (D-Charlottesville), HB 2291 was ruled out of order – effectively killing the measure – by Speaker Bill Howell (R- Stafford) due to various references of a report and a tardy filing of the legislation. *House Commerce and Labor Passage: (15-Y, 6-N)*

SB 1365 – Clean Power Plan Implementation (House Substitute) Floor Substitute by Delegate Israel O'Quinn (R-Bristol)

Senate Bill 1365, introduced by Senator Watkins, was transformed various times throughout the legislative process. Although Virginia LCV opposed the bill as introduced, it was amended in the Senate to allow our position to become neutral. However, a floor substitute from Delegate O'Quinn dramatically changed the purpose of the bill to, again, undercut Virginia's ability to grow our clean energy economy and create new jobs under the Clean Power Plan.

After the Senate's rejection of the House substitute, the bill was sent to conference committee where a few select members of each house were to come to a compromise. After failure to reach such, the patron asked for the bill to be stricken from the calendar, ultimately killing the legislation. House Substitute Passage: (64-Y, 30-N); Senate Adoption of Substitute: (8-Y, 31-N)

✓ SB 1443 – Comprehensive Plans and Sea Level Rise

Senator John Miller (D-Newport News)

The Hampton Roads region of the Commonwealth is considered the second most vulnerable region in the country to the effects of climate change, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. As businesses and schools have to account for recurrent flooding from afternoon rain showers, localities are faced with a complex and difficult challenge in both slowing and adapting to sea level rise.

SB 1443 directs localities within the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission to incorporate into all future comprehensive plans strategies to combat sea level rise and recurrent flooding. As communities in the Hampton Roads region work to find solutions to this difficult and complex issue, this legislation is a step in the right direction. The bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor. *House Passage: (90-Y, 9-N); Senate Passage: (22-Y, 16-N)*



Where Conservation Victories Begin

Virginia LCV recognizes the efforts of legislators that promote and lead on conservation issues each session. These patrons are acknowledged for the value of their commitment in each of the final scores. Note that even though some members introduce multiple bills that receive Virginia LCV support, each member receives acknowledgement for only one patron credit.

Land Conservation

Delegate Michael Webert (R) – Budget amendment to not increase I and Preservation Tax Credit transfer fee.

Senator Emmett Hanger (R) – Budget amendment to not increase Land Preservation Tax Credit transfer fee.

Clean Water

Delegate Chris Peace (R) - HB 1363; Land application of industrial waste unlawful in certain counties

Delegate James Edmunds (R) – HB 1507; Dan River scenic designation.

Delegate Lee Ware (R) – HB 1511; Industrial waste disclosure of land.

Delegate Michael Webert (R) – Budget amendment for agricultural BMP funding.

Senator John Watkins (R) – SB 811: Toxic Chemicals Advisory Committee established.

Senator Donald McEachin (D) – SB 1071: Increase in penalty fines for polluters.

Senator Jennifer Wexton (D) – SB 1154: Notice of spills into state waters.

Senator Tommy Norment (R) – SJ 271: Study of impact industrial residuals have on public health.

Senator Emmett Hanger (R) – Budget amendment for agricultural BMP funding.

Transportation

Delegate Manoli Loupassi (R) – HB 1402; Highway maintenance payments to certain cities and towns.

Delegate Betsy Carr (D) – HB 1501; Highway maintenance payments to certain cities and towns.

Delegate Chris Jones (R) – HB 1887; Transportation funding formula.

Energy and Climate Change

Senator John Watkins (R) - SB 801; Property Assessed Clean Energy.

Senator Richard Stuart (R) - SB 1099: Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority established.

Senator Lynwood Lewis (D) – SB 1317; Virginia Shoreline Resiliency Fund established.

Senator Chap Petersen (D) – SB 1331; Natural Gas Conservation and Ratemaking Efficiency Act.

Senator Rosalyn Dance (D) - SB 1395; Net energy metering.

Senator Donald McEachin (D) - SB 1428; Virginia Coastal Protection Act

Senator John Miller (D) – SB 1443: Comprehensive Plans and sea level rise.

Delegate Sam Rasoul (D) – HB 1297; Machinery and Tools Tax

Delegate Danny Marshall (R) - HB 1446; Property Assessed Clean Energy.

Delegate Randy Minchew (R) – HB 1636; Net energy metering, community subscriber organizations.

Delegate David Bulova (D) – HB 1725; Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority created.

Delegate Rip Sullivan (D) – HB 1729; Establishment of community solar gardens.

Delegate Rob Krupicka (D) – HB 1877; Expiration coal tax credits, dedication of additional revenues.

Delegate Alfonso Lopez (D) – HB 1913: Renewable energy resources and energy efficiency goals.

Delegate Jennifer McClellan (D) - HB1950; Net energy metering.

Delegate David Toscano (D) – HB 2075; Renewable energy portfolio standard program.

Delegate Rob Villanueva (R) – HB 2205; Virginia Coastal Protection Act

Delegate Tim Hugo (R) – HB 2267; Virginia Solar Energy Development Authority established.

Good Government

Senator Jill Vogel (R) - SJ 284; Virginia Redistricting Commission.

House Scorecard

✓ = Right **X** = Wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained

Delegate	District	Party	2014 Score	2015 Score	Cumulative Score Since 2000	HB 1887: Transportation Funding	HB 1446: Clean Energy Financing Programs	HB 1297: Machinery & Tools Producing Renewable Energy	HB 1365: Clean Power Plan Implementation (House Substitute)	HB 2291: Clean Power Plan Implementation	SB 1071: Increase in Penalties	HJ 666: Opposition to Clean Water Act	SB 1443: Comprehensive Plans and Sea Level Rise	Patron Credi
Adams	16	R	50%	33%	45%	~	~	×	×			×	×	
Albo	42	R	60%	80%	44%	~	~	v	×			NV	~	
Anderson	51	R	60%	67%	45%	~	~	v	×			×	~	
Austin	19	R	60%	67%	60%	~	~	v	×			×	~	
BaCote	95	D	80%	100%	75%	~	~	v	v			~	~	
Bell, R	58	R	40%	29%	39%	~	~	×	×	×		×	×	
Bell, D	20	R	40%	50%	45%	~	~	×	×			×	~	
Berg	29	R	40%	0%	20%	×	×	×	×			×	×	
Bloxom	100	R	100%	57%	57%	~	~	v	×		×	×	~	
Bulova	37	D	100%	100%	93%	~	~	~	v			~	~	~
Byron	22	R	60%	57%	40%	~	~	v	×	×		×	~	
Campbell	6	R	60%	80%	44%	~	~	~	NV			×	~	
Carr	69	D	100%	100%	100%	~	~	v	v			~	~	~
Cline	24	R	40%	43%	36%	~	~	×	×	×		×	~	
Cole	88	R	60%	33%	50%	~	×	v	×			×	×	
Cox	66	R	60%	67%	43%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Davis	84	R	40%	80%	50%	~	~	v	×			NV	~	
DeSteph, Jr.	82	R	60%	67%	60%	~	~	v	×			×	~	
Edmunds	60	R	67%	83%	60%	~	~	v	NV			×	~	~
Fariss	59	R	40%	60%	54%	~	~	v	NV			×	×	
Farrell	56	R	60%	100%	38%	~	AB	AB	AB	AB		NV	~	
Filler-Corn	41	D	100%	100%	98%	~	~	v	v	~		~	~	
Fowler	55	R	60%	67%	60%	~	~	v	×			×	~	
Futrell	2	D	100%	100%	100%	~	~	v	NV			~	~	
Garrett	23	R	60%	67%	46%	~	~	~	×			×	✓	
Gilbert	15	R	20%	20%	32%	~	×	×	×			×	NV	
Greason	32	R	60%	67%	53%	~	~	~	×			×	✓	
Habeeb	8	R	60%	43%	41%	~	~	~	×	×		×	×	
Head	17	R	60%	60%	46%	~	~	v	NV			×	×	
Helsel	91	R	80%	67%	60%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Herring	46	D	100%	100%	95%	~	~	v	v			~	~	

Delegate	District	Party	2014 Score	2015 Score	Cumulative Score Since 2000	HB 1887: Transportation Funding	HB 1446: Clean Energy Financing Programs	HB 1297: Machinery & Tools Producing Renewable Energy	HB 1365: Clean Power Plan Implementation (House Substitute)	HB 2291: Clean Power Plan Implementation	SB 1071: Increase in Penalties	HJ 666: Opposition to Clean Water Act	SB 1443: Comprehensive Plans and Sea Level Rise	Patron Credi
Hester	89	D	75%	100%	89%	~	~	~	~			~	v	
Hodges	98	R	60%	67%	53%	~	v	~	×			×	~	
Hope	47	D	100%	100%	100%	~	~	~	~			~	~	
Howell	28	R	80%	67%	49%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Hugo	40	R	67%	57%	49%	NV	~	~	×	×		×	~	~
Ingram	62	R	60%	67%	43%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
James	80	D	67%	100%	79%	~	~	~	~			~	~	
Joannou	79	D	60%	57%	48%	~	~	~	×	×		×	~	
Jones	76	R	60%	71%	44%	~	~	~	×			×	~	~
Keam	35	D	100%	100%	98%	~	~	~	v	~		~	~	
Kilgore	1	R	60%	57%	39%	~	~	~	×	×		×	~	
Knight	81	R	50%	67%	42%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Kory	38	D	100%	100%	100%	~	~	~	~			~	~	
Krupicka	45	D	100%	100%	100%	~	~	~	v			~	~	
Landes	25	R	20%	50%	46%	~	~	×	×			×	~	
LaRock	33	R	20%	67%	40%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Leftwich	78	R	60%	67%	60%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
LeMunyon	67	R	60%	67%	56%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Lindsey	90	D		100%		~	~	~	v			~	~	
Lingamfelter	31	R	67%	67%	53%	~	~	~	×			×	✓	
Lopez	49	D	100%	100%	100%	~	~	~	~		~	~	~	~
Loupassi	68	R	80%	63%	47%	~	~	~	×	×		×	~	~
Marshall, D	14	R	33%	63%	37%	~	~	~	×	×		×	~	~
Marshall, R	13	R	60%	50%	60%	×	~	~	×			×	~	
Mason	93	D	100%	100%	100%	~	~	~	~			~	~	
Massie	72	R	60%	67%	44%	~	~	~	×			×	✓	
McClellan	71	D	100%	100%	98%	~	~	~	~	~		~	~	~
McQuinn	70	D	80%	100%	90%	~	~	V	v			~	~	
Miller	50	R	50%	67%	40%	~	~	~	×	×		NV	~	
Minchew	10	R	83%	71%	71%	~	~	~	×			×	~	~
Morefield	3	R	50%	67%	46%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Morris	64	R	20%	17%	38%	~	×	×	×			×	×	
Morrissey	74	I	100%	100%	91%	~	~	~	~			~	v	
Murphy	34	D		100%		~	~	~	~			~	~	
O'Bannon	73	R	60%	67%	46%	~	v	~	×			×	~	

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D'Quinn	5	R	80%	57%	57%	~	~	~	×	×		×	~	
Orrock	54	R	50%	67%	46%	~	v	~	×			×	~	
Peace	97	R	60%	57%	53%	~	~	×	×			×	~	~
Pillion	4	R		67%		V	~	~	×			×	~	
Plum	36	D	100%	100%	93%	~	~	~	~			~	~	
Pogge	96	R	33%	67%	37%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Poindexter	9	R	17%	33%	36%	~	~	×	×			×	×	
Preston	63	D		100%		V	~	~	~			~	~	
Ramadan	87	R	60%	67%	55%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Ransone	99	R	50%	57%	39%	~	~	~	×		×	×	~	
Rasoul	11	D	80%	100%	91%	~	~	~	~			~	~	~
Robinson	27	R	60%	67%	51%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Rush	7	R	60%	67%	45%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Rust	86	R	67%	57%	58%	~	~	~	×	×		×	~	
Scott	30	R	57%	67%	47%	~	~	~	*			×	~	
Sickles	43	D	100%	100%	95%	~	~	✓	~			~	~	
Simon	53	D	100%	100%	100%	~	~	~	~			~	~	
Spruill	77	D	80%	100%	69%	~	✓	~	~	~		~	~	
Stolle	83	R	67%	67%	50%	~	~	~	*			×	~	
Sullivan	48	D		100%		~	~	~	~			~	~	~
Surovell	44	D	83%	100%	94%	~	~	~	~			~	~	
Taylor	85	R	60%	67%	60%	~	~	~	×			×	~	
Forian	52	D	86%	100%	92%	~	~	~	~		~	~	~	
Toscano	57	D	100%	100%	98%	V	~	~	~			~	~	~
Fyler	75	D	80%	100%	83%	~	~	~	~	~		~	~	
/illanueva	21	R	67%	63%	51%	~	~	~	×	×		×	~	~
Ward	92	D	100%	100%	84%	~	~	~	~	~		~	~	
Nare	65	R	67%	56%	50%	~	~	~	×	×	×	×	~	~
Watts	39	D	80%	100%	83%	~	~	~	~			~	~	
Nebert	18	R	67%	57%	61%	V	~	×	×			×	~	~
Nilt	26	R	50%	57%	44%	~	~	v	×		×	×	v	
Nright	61	R	33%	67%	43%	~	~	<i>v</i>	×			×	v	
Yancey	94	R	60%	57%	53%	~	~	v	×	×		×	v	
ŕost	12	R	60%	67%	53%	~	~	~	×			×	~	

Senate Scorecard

\checkmark = Right \Rightarrow = Wrong NV = Not Voting AB = Abstained

Delegate	District	Party	2015 Score	2014 Score	Cumulative Score Since 2000	SB 740: Clean Power Plan Implementation	SB 1071: Increase in Penalties	SB 1365: Clean Power Plan Implementation (House Substitute)	SB 1428: Virginia Coastal Protection Act	SB 1443: Comprehensive Plans and Sea Level Rise	HB 1887: Transportation Funding	HB 1297: Machinery & Tools Producing Renewable Energy	Patro Cred
Alexander	5	D	100%	80%	84%		~	~		~	~	~	
Barker	39	D	80%	78%	84%		~	v		~	×	v	
Black	13	R	29%	44%	36%	×	×	v	×	×	v	×	
Carrico	40	R	40%	44%	36%		×	×		×	v	v	
Chafin	38	R	43%	60%	50%	×	×	v	×	~	v	×	
Colgan	29	D	100%	50%	59%		~	v		~	~	~	
Cosgrove	14	R	60%	33%	46%		×	v		×	v	v	
Dance	16	D	100%	83%	79%	~	~	v	~	~	~	~	
Deeds	25	D	100%	90%	85%		~	v		~	v	v	
Ebbin	30	D	100%	100%	98%	~	~	v	~	~	~	~	
Edwards	21	D	100%	90%	85%		~	v		~	v	v	
Favola	31	D	100%	100%	100%		~	v		~	~	~	
Garrett	22	R	20%	44%	44%		×	×		×	v	×	
Hanger	24	R	75%	60%	45%	×	~	v	×	v	 	v	
Howell	32	D	100%	100%	87%		~	v		v	v	v	
Lewis	6	D	100%	86%	86%	~	~	v	~	v	 	AB	
Locke	2	D	80%	78%	84%		~	×		v	v	v	
Lucas	18	D	100%	71%	72%		NV	v		NV	 	NV	
Marsden	37	D	86%	90%	85%	~	~	v	~	v	×	v	
Martin	11	R	40%	44%	34%	×	~		×	✓			
McDougle	4	R	40%	50%	45%		×	×		×	 ✓ 	v	
McEachin	9	D	100%	100%	90%	~	~	v	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
McWaters	8	R	60%	40%	51%		×	~		~	v	×	
Miller	1	D	100%	90%	83%	~	~	✓	~	~	~	v	
Newman	23	R	60%	56%	34%		×	~		×	~	~	
Norment	3	R	67%	75%	49%		×	~		×	~	v	
Obenshain	26	R	14%	40%	38%	×	×	×	×	×	~	×	
Petersen	34	D	88%	91%	88%	~	~	~	v	~	×	v	
Puller*	36	D	N/A*	75%	77%		NV	NV		NV	NV	NV	
Reeves	17	R	20%	44%	50%		×	×		×	~	×	
Ruff	15	R	29%	63%	37%	×	×	~	×	×	×	~	
Saslaw	35	D	100%	88%	69%		~	✓		~	~	~	
Smith	19	R	40%	33%	36%		×	v		×	v	×	

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Stanley	20	R	14%	50%	46%	×	×	×	×	×	 ✓ 	×	
Stosch	12	R	80%	63%	44%		~	v		×	v	~	
Stuart	28	R	38%	70%	52%	×	×	v	×	×	v	×	~
Vogel	27	R	100%	90%	87%		~	✓		~	v	~	~
Wagner	7	R	40%	56%	39%		×	×		×	v	v	
Watkins	10	R	88%	56%	43%	~	~	✓	×	~	v	~	V
Wexton	33	D	100%	86%	93%		~	~		~	v	~	~

PHOTO CREDIT: Great Falls Sunrise by Theresa Rasmussen of Fredericksburg | Courtesy of Scenic Virginia



VIRGINIA LEAGUE OF Conservation voters

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters is the political voice of conservation in the Commonwealth. We work tirelessly to protect all of Virginia's treasured natural resources – clean air and water, thriving communities and rural landscapes, productive farms and forests, historic battlefields and Main Streets, and ample public lands and open spaces.

Virginia LCV is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization and gifts to it and its Political Action Committee are non-tax deductible.

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