

SUPPORT HB 250

Large-Scale Commercial Metals Mining: Regulatory Review and Permit Pause
Patroned by Delegate Shelly Simonds

Reasons to support HB 250 :

Delegate Simonds' **HB 250** addresses the outdated regulatory framework for commercial metals mining of copper, zinc and lead. As operations have not occurred in the Commonwealth for many decades, existing bonding, reclamation, closure, and monitoring regulations should be comprehensively evaluated and updated. This bill provides for good governance by pausing permits on gold, copper, lead, and zinc until regulations are analyzed, and does not impact other mining, such as aggregate.

Overview:

Specifically, the bill:

- Analyzes current regulations regarding base metals, such as copper, zinc, and lead, that are mined and/or processed using similar techniques evaluated by the state agency committee established as a result of HB2213 (2021).
- Requires review of potential factors which could lead to toxic contamination of our water supply, and for any impacts to public health.
- Pauses permitting for any large-scale mining of gold, copper, lead, and zinc operations within the Commonwealth until the analysis of mining regulations is complete.



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This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.