



**Commonwealth of Virginia House of Delegates Commerce and Energy Committee  
February 3, 2022**

**Testimony of Andrew Gohn on Behalf of the American Clean Power Association  
OPPOSE – House Bill 118**

**Andrew Gohn – Eastern Region Director of State Affairs**

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Chair Byron, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to House Bill 118.

I am Andrew Gohn, Eastern Region Director of State Affairs for the American Clean Power Association (ACP). American Clean Power is the voice of companies from across the clean power sector that are powering America's future and providing cost-effective solutions to the climate crisis while creating jobs, spurring massive investment in the U.S. economy, and driving high-tech innovation across the nation. ACP works to champion policies that will transform the U.S. power grid to a low-cost, reliable, and renewable power system.

House Bill 118 would repeal many of the most important features of the Virginia Clean Economy Act. This legislation reflected the popular consensus that the Commonwealth should transition to a clean energy future and laid out a roadmap to achieve that transition in a way that will drive economic prosperity for all Virginians.

The bill makes several changes to the Virginia energy code.

The most significant and damaging change is to 56-585.1(6), which repeals renewables procurement requirements for: 16,100 megawatts (MW) of land-based wind and solar; Up to 3,000 MW of offshore wind; and 7,700 MW of energy storage facilities.

This provision would be incredibly detrimental to Virginia's energy progress. The plan to build out renewable generation capacity at the level needed to transition the Commonwealth to a clean energy future is the heart of the Virginia Clean Economy Act. Deployment of renewables across the Commonwealth at this scale would drive unprecedented job creation, economic development, and place Virginia as a leader and hub for these technologies in the region. It would have also transformative impact on the health of Virginians by dramatically improving air and water quality and reduce carbon pollution that drives climate change.

The VCEA requirements for offshore wind have been an unmitigated success in driving international investment into the state and raising Virginia up as a regional hub and leader in the race to develop offshore wind in America. Due to these investments, Siemens-Gamesa Renewable Energy has committed to building the first offshore wind turbine OEM blade facility in the United States, right at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal. Just this pledge alone will yield \$280 million investment and create approximately 260 jobs on site. The scope of Virginia's offshore wind build-out places the Commonwealth in a position to secure economic investments, even beyond those in states that had moved much earlier on the offshore



wind opportunity. Repealing these provisions would do great harm to Virginia's economic future and business environment.

Energy storage is a major pillar of Virginia's energy transition and will provide huge resiliency and reliability benefits to Virginia communities and families. In addition to canceling this requirement, 56-585.1:4 (F) would remove language deeming 2,700 MW of energy storage to be in the public interest. Energy storage technologies are an absolute win/win for host states. Providing increased reliability allows the entire energy system to operate more efficiently and securely. Battery storage facilities, in particular, require very little land, almost no additional infrastructure investment, and minimal visual presence. Repealing the state's commitment to energy storage would be misguided and harm Virginia's future prosperity.

ACP appreciates the opportunity to share our view on this proposal with the Committee. We respectfully urge members to oppose this bill.