

SUPPORT HB1054

Topic: Disconnections prohibitions during weather extremes

Bill Patron: Delegate Shin

Reasons to support HB1054:

- Virginia currently has among the weakest utility disconnection protections for customers of any state in the south and southeast even during times of crisis or extreme weather events.
- Many of our neighbors most impacted by the current public health crisis and the increasingly worsening effects of climate change like extreme weather are from communities of color and low-income families. It is important to ensure resilience for families financially burdened by utility bills in times of crisis.
- Expanding utility disconnection protections for our neighbors at higher risk of being affected by extreme weather events helps to limit disconnections and ensures life-saving access to those who need gas, electric, and water services the most.
- As the impacts of climate change worsen, extreme weather events are predicted to be more frequent and severe, likely affecting our most vulnerable neighbors. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported that just last year deadly weather such as flooding events, extreme heat, tornadoes, and cyclones cost \$145 billion, the third-highest cost on record, and killed more than 600 people.
- Covid-19 remains a threat for VA communities, it is critical to consider how expanding protections to ensure the availability of power, and water services can help people manage symptoms when infected, reduce infection rates and maintain health in a global pandemic.

Overview:

This bill protects VA utility customers (gas, electric, and water) by limiting the ability of electric, gas, and water utilities to disconnect customers from critical services during extreme weather events or during periods of crisis. It also bans utilities from charging households for disconnecting and reconnecting their accounts and requires utilities to report on the number of disconnections they pursue every month.



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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.

OPPOSE HB 894

Topic: Undermines VCEA and exempts coal plant from retirement date

Bill Patron: Delegate Kilgore

Reasons to oppose HB 894:

The 2022 VA Legislative Session has been filled with bills that seek to undermine previous climate wins and clean energy adoption, including this proposed legislation. This bill directly impacts the VCEA code section, repealing multiple provisions and opening it up to further unfriendly amendments. Beyond that, this proposal's attempts to further extend the life of coal power plans in VA have both negative environmental and economic impacts.

Overview:

Specifically, Delegate Kilgore's HB 894 exempts VCHEC from mandatory retirement dates established in the VCEA. It also repeals additional provisions of the VCEA, including certain EJ reporting requirements. Furthermore, it encourages nuclear development.



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OPPOSE HB 1326

Topic: Waste Coal

Bill Patron: Delegate Kilgore

Reasons to oppose HB 1326:

The 2022 VA Legislative Session has been filled with bills that seek to undermine previous climate wins and clean energy adoption, including this proposed legislation. The combustion of waste (or “gob”) coal for electricity generation should not be encouraged or incentivized. This fuel source produces climate and air pollution, which the VCEA specifically seeks to reduce.

Overview:

Specifically, Delegate Kilgore’s HB 1326 establishes that waste coal as fuel for electricity generation is in the public interest.



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