

Comments on HB 84

My name is Glenn Cobb and I work with Vulcan Materials Company, the largest producer of construction aggregate in the country and a leading producer of asphalt and concrete, and a member of the VTCA. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on HB 84. We agree with the comments that will be provided in committee by VTCA today. Unfortunately, schedule conflicts prohibited us from attending today's meeting, so we are submitting a few thoughts on the proposed legislation. The exploration for potential mine sites in Virginia is already a very public process. Whether it be the initial applications to the State or to a local municipality for licensure, both of those are public processes and easily available for the public to review and to provide comments. Obtaining zoning and any additional land entitlements from the local jurisdiction requires public application, public notice, public meetings at several different levels as well as any proprietary efforts by the company to meet with the public about upcoming land use applications. Secondly, we believe that creating a state mandated process and eliminating the right of the local governing body to determine how to handle zoning and special use considerations is misguided. This bill will not only usurp land use privileges from the duly elected representatives of a jurisdiction, it will also potentially cause undue hardship to private property owners who may be trying to ascertain whether or not their property has potential to provide essential materials needed in everyday use in the commonwealth. In fact, it was mined materials that were used in the redevelopment process that built this beautiful facility you are meeting in today. It is important to remember that it is not uncommon for land to be drilled only to discover it is not suitable for a quarry or other mining activity. We would respectfully request that HB 84 not be passed in its current form and that the industry have time to work with the bill sponsor on some needed clarifying language.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Glenn Cobb, Manager

Government and Community Relations, Northeast Division