

SUPPORT HB 1294

Interstate natural gas pipeline construction; water quality impact bond

Patrons: Rasoul & Hurst

Referred to House Committee on Rules

Reasons to support HB 1294:

- **Protecting water quality requires proactive measures** - By requiring a water quality impact bond for all interstate natural gas pipelines, this bill provides a financial cushion for localities and landowners that could be forced to deal with the water quality impacts that can arise from pipeline construction.
- **More incentive to consider water quality before proposing a pipeline route:** This bill will add a financial incentive to responsible construction on pipeline projects and increase the need for careful examination of the water quality risks of proposed routes.
- **Find problems fast and fix them before moving on:** This legislation will give the State Water Control Board the authority to initiate and maintain conservation action as soon as adverse water quality impacts are discovered. The performance bond will provide funding for quick action and the company is required to replace the money used before construction can resume.

Overview:

The proposed Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley pipelines would cross hundreds of miles of steep mountain slopes and porous karst terrain in the western parts of Virginia, where contamination from the construction process poses a significant threat to the quality of streams, wetlands, and private drinking wells.

HB 1294 would require the companies who are building pipelines like the ones above to have the funds ready in advance for any possible problem that could put the water quality of western Virginia in danger. It gives the State Water Control Board the authority to determine when and how to use this money in the event of adverse water quality impacts and it also gives the Board the authority to replenish the account at the company's' expense.

- Creates water quality impact bond for interstate pipeline construction