

SUPPORT HB 1141 & SB 950

Pipeline construction; upland impacts, supplemental review.

Patron – Rasoul (HB 1141); Hanger (SB 950)

Reasons to support HB 1141:

- **Protecting Water Quality Requires Complete Information** – We don't know the precise impacts pipeline construction will have on water quality unless we review all relevant information. HB 1141 would require the State Water Control Board to analyze all critical information before it issues a permit for an interstate natural gas pipeline.
- **Preserve state authority** – Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act grants states broad authority to veto an interstate natural gas pipeline project if it would violate

Overview

Constructing large interstate natural gas pipelines poses significant threats to the quality of streams, wetlands, and private drinking wells in Virginia, especially along the steep mountain slopes and porous karst terrain in the western parts of the state.

In 2017, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) created a review process for the State Water Control Board to permit interstate natural gas pipelines. This process excluded highly critical information from the Board's review.

HB 1141 and SB 950 would require the Board to analyze all critical information before it issues a permit for an interstate natural gas pipeline. It would require both a Virginia Water Protection Permit and a Water Quality Certification under Clean Water Act § 401. Specifically, the bills:

- Prohibit the Board from waiving its authority under Clean Water Act § 401
- Require review of individual water body crossings



**Appalachian
Voices**

This position was taken by Peter Anderson on behalf of the Virginia Conservation Network (VCN). For a complete supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinate Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.
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**Virginia Conservation
Network**

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