

SUPPORT HB 1154

Increase annual litter tax amount

Representative Lopez

Reasons to support House Bill 1154

1. The litter tax generated \$664,102 of the \$1.7 million in the Litter Control and Recycling Fund. This fund was dispersed to 190 localities and programs, providing an economic value of over \$22 million with 5,500 community clean ups, 45,000 volunteers, and 75,000 cubic yards of litter removed. Increased funding would expand the reach of valuable programs, improving the lives of all Virginians.
2. The litter tax has not been adjusted for inflation in 43 years. Despite being underfunded the Litter Control and Recycling Fund provides the best ROI of any tax in the Commonwealth.
3. The **Virginia Marine Debris Reduction Plan** (the first such plan on the East Coast), recognizes the need to secure adequate funding to support grants to local governments, nonprofits and others for infrastructure improvements, behavior-change campaign development and coordination to reduce litter and marine debris
4. During the June 2018 “Stormwater and Litter” workshop (organized by Clean Virginia. Waterways of Longwood University and the VA Coastal Zone Management Program), more than 40 stormwater professionals from across Virginia emphasized that increased funding was necessary to reduce the amount of litter
5. Virginia’s investment in litter abatement falls far behind efforts other states have made.
 - a. The Tennessee litter tax generated \$5.6 million in 2018 (Pop. 6.77 million)
 - b. The Washington state litter tax brings in \$10 million every year (Pop. 7.5 million)
 - c. The Nebraska litter tax generates about \$1.5 million annually (Pop. 1.92 million)
6. Virginia spends millions of dollars a year cleaning up litter pollution on the taxpayers’ dime. VDOT estimates that it spends \$6 million a year picking up litter on roadways. Increasing the litter tax would lessen the burden on Virginia taxpayers.

Overview

Increases the annual litter tax from \$10 to \$20 and the additional annual litter tax from \$15 to \$30. Both taxes are imposed on manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers of certain products, however, the additional tax applies to fewer businesses.



Clean Fairfax
Zach Huntington
zach@cleanfairfax.org
|804.214.1905
www.VCNVA.org



Virginia Conservation Network
Pat Calvert
pat@vcnva.org | 434.484.0804
www.VCNVA.org