

OPPOSE HB73

Topic: Emission offsetting; low income & elderly energy efficiency programs; waste heat and combined pumped storage as renewable energy; energy storage; offshore wind; State Corporation Commission certificates of public convenience and necessity

Bill Patron: Delegate Lee Ware

Reasons to Oppose HB73:

Undermines the VCEA by:

- allowing emission offsetting or netting based on fuel type rather than the current complete reduction of emissions at the smokestack.
- Removes the public interest designation for VCEA-related clean energy and energy storage projects
- Removes the public interest declaration for low income, elderly, and pilot energy efficiency programs.

Overview:

The VCEA requires a cap on all carbon emissions and expressly prohibits dubious workarounds like netting based on fuel type. That law that encourages low income and elderly energy efficiency programs eliminates barriers to improving energy efficiency for these groups and also delivers much needed savings on electricity bills for them. Pilot programs play an important role by encouraging new and innovative approaches to energy efficiency programs. Removing the public interest designation for these important programs will make it more difficult for these vulnerable Virginia populations to access energy efficiency programs that will save them money. It will also eliminate incentives for utilities to develop pilot programs and Virginia could lose out on the opportunity to experiment with creative new energy efficiency programs. Removing the public interest designation from energy storage and offshore wind facilities removes viable options for reducing emissions and achieving a 100% carbon free power sector.



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