

# 2023 CONSERVATION COMMUNITY BUDGET PRIORITIES

Funding to protect our natural resources is a priority for the conservation community, with a focus on a budget investments to meet our 2024 Chesapeake Bay clean up goals, accelerate clean transportation, and secure lasting funding for our natural landscapes. Virginia Conservation Network and the conservation community have taken positions on the following budget amendments:

## CLEANING UP THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

**SUPPORT 108 #2h** \$175K for two staff over both years of the biennium to help evaluate strategies to achieve Chesapeake Bay WIP goals.

**SUPPORT 373 #1h, 373 #1s** Convenes a work group to develop recommendations for a program to accelerate nutrient reductions in the Chesapeake Bay watershed

**SUPPORT 374 #16h, 374 #4s** Two positions to enhance training and technical assistance provided by the department to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts

**SUPPORT 374 #2h, 374 #10s** Convene a stakeholder group to achieve our agricultural water quality obligations under Virginia's Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan

**SUPPORT 374 #5h, 374 #9s** Funds marketing for Virginia's Agricultural Cost-Share Program

**SUPPORT 374 #6h, 374 #11s** Funding to support education and outreach programming for the 47 Soil and Water Conservation District offices

**SUPPORT 374 #7h, 374 #8s** Establishes a pilot special grant fund to incentivize the most cost-effective agricultural best management practices to achieve the Phase III Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan

**SUPPORT 374 #8h, 374 #1s, 374 #16s** Funding to upgrade and develop the Conservation Application Suite (CAS) for the Virginia Agricultural Cost Share Program

**OPPOSE 375 #11h** Authorizes the Soil and Water Conservation Board to allocate unobligated Agricultural BMP and technical assistance funding to other Soil and Water Conservation District projects

**SUPPORT 389 #1h & 389 #1s** \$3.75M in FY24 to clean the Elizabeth River

**SUPPORT C-80 #1h, C-80 #1s** Provide funding based on the 2022 Needs Assessment from the DEQ to meet Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan

## CONSERVING VIRGINIA'S NATURAL LANDSCAPES

**SUPPORT 98 #2h** \$6M each year for the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund

**SUPPORT 98 #3s** \$5M in FY24 to the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund

**SUPPORT 108 #6h** \$1M each year to match federal programs providing funds for agricultural and conservation easements

**SUPPORT 108 #5h, 108 #2s** \$500K for a forest and tree canopy coverage study

**SUPPORT 375 #10h & 375 #10s** \$69M for State Parks System

**SUPPORT 375 #13s & 375 #13h** \$287.5K in FY24 for Breaks Interstate Park

**SUPPORT 375 #7s, 375 #8h & 375 #15h** Brings the Virginia Land Conservation Fund total to \$30M each year

**SUPPORT 376 #1s** Ten positions for State Parks & Natural Area Preserves

**SUPPORT 382 #3s, 452 #1h, & 452 #12s** Funding in FY24 for wildlife corridors

**SUPPORT 386 #10h, 386 #20s, C-50 #2h, C-50 #2s** \$3M in FY24 to the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund



## KEEPING OUR WATER FREE OF INDUSTRIAL TOXINS & PLASTICS

**374 #10h** \$200K each year and one position to establish an anti-littering educational program

**378 #3h** Prohibits the sale and distribution of high PAH pavement sealant

**378 #5h** Hazardous Substance Aboveground Storage Tank Fund

**380 #9h, 380 #1s, & 380 #2s** Funding to support Keep Virginia Beautiful in order to support its efforts to reduce litter

## ENCOURAGING NATIVE & REDUCING INVASIVE SPECIES

**SUPPORT 100 #1h, 100 #2s, 108 #1h, 108 #4s, 374 #4h, 374 #13s, 382 #2h, & 382 #2s** Provides staff to implement the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan

**SUPPORT 374 #11h** \$593K and five positions for the Natural Heritage Program

**SUPPORT 375 #3s & C-51 #1h** Funding for state-owned Natural Area Preserves

**SUPPORT 375 #5s** \$1.1M for the Natural Heritage Program

**SUPPORT 375 #6h & C-51 #2s** Removes restrictions on acquisition of land for Natural Area Preserves

## PROTECTING VIBRANT AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

**SUPPORT 99 #2h & 99#2s** \$4M for the Governor's Blue Catfish Industries Development Fund

**SUPPORT 160 #1h** \$345k for the VIMS shellfish breeding program

**SUPPORT 160 #3h & 160 #3s** Funds the study of Menhaden as a forage fish and for its economic value

**SUPPORT 276 #4h & 276 #17s** Funding for an oyster shell tax credit

**SUPPORT 382 #1h, 382 #5h, C-52.60 #2s** Expand and upgrade infrastructure at the Virginia Fisheries and Aquatic Wildlife Center in Charles City County for the purposes of freshwater mussel propagation and restoration

## SUPPORTING LOCAL FOODS & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**98 #3h** Additional \$1.3 million in FY24 for grants to increase meat processing capacity

**129 #14h** \$50K in FY24 to cover any costs for the Farm to School Program

**136 #20s** \$75K in FY24 to fund a subscription for the Statewide Agricultural Experience Tracker

**228 #2h, 228 #3h, & 228 #2s** Additional funding to cover operating costs and student membership for the Virginia FFA

## TRANSFORMING LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION

**OPPOSE 452 Q, R, #3s, #4s, #11s, #9s, #4h** and any other amendment that would use the General Fund for highway expansion, construction, or repair projects

**SUPPORT 114 #12s & 114 #23h** Additional \$75M in FY24 for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund

**SUPPORT 117 #1h** \$50K for regulations for electric vehicle charging for residential housing with more than 25 units

**SUPPORT 121 #4h & 121 #2s** \$25M for the Electric Vehicle Rural Infrastructure Fund

**SUPPORT 121 #6h** \$40M to fund the Electric Vehicle Rebate Program

**SUPPORT 375 #23h & 375 #8h** \$5M in FY24 for the Get Outdoors Fund

## DEFENDING CLIMATE POLICY

**OPPOSE** any amendments that redirect RGGI funds away from the designated Community Flood Preparedness Fund or Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program

**SUPPORT 121 #1s** \$20M for the Virginia Brownfield & Coal Mine Renewable Energy Grant Fund

**SUPPORT 121 #4s** Funds the Commonwealth Solar and Economic Development Program

**OPPOSE 272 #1h & 272 #2h** Funds the Department of Regulatory Innovation to oversee the Virginia Regulatory Sandbox Program

## CONTACT INFORMATION



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Learn more about the  
conservation community's  
top priorities:

[vcnva.org/our-common-agenda](https://vcnva.org/our-common-agenda)