

SUPPORT HB 316

Topic: Water- Plastics/ Zero Waste

Bill Patron: Delegate Bulova

OVERVIEW:

HB 316 establishes the Virginia Recycling Development Center for the purposes of furthering the development of markets and processing for recycled commodities and products. The bill creates the Virginia Recycling Development Center Advisory Committee, establishes reporting requirements, and creates the Recycling Market Development Fund to be used to fund the Center.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- The DEQ recently released a draft of [AN ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF RECYCLING IN VIRGINIA](#) and while it seems that we have made progress, it is evident that there continue to be gaps in recycling particularly when it comes to data collection, minimums by material type, contamination reporting and overall post consumer recycling access and operations. [Outside studies of Virginia recycling](#) actually put us at a much lower rate as things like contamination or if it was sold rather than simply recovered are not considered in Virginia's draft report. .
- Virginia needs to improve conventional recycling while ensuring plastics to fuel processes are not included in the same scope.
- Virginians from Hampton Roads to Staunton to Arlington to Chesterfield are losing access to recycling. Virginians are throwing value into the landfill and by doing so increasing the need for more and more virgin materials.
- States with higher recycling rates and lower litter rates track the information that this bill would task the center with researching particularly for materials that are high value, make money and can continue to be recycled- and they invest in improving these operations.
- The development of this center and fund would signal support for materials made with mechanically recycled content and further develop the market for goods made with less virgin materials. Virginia needs to modernize its recycling. Our products can and should be made from recycled materials and materials that can continue to be recyclable.



Elly Boehmer Wilson
eboehmer@environmentvirginia.org
(847) 775 9778



Pat Calvert, Land & Water Policy Manager
pat@vcnva.org
(434) 484-0804

This position was taken by Virginia Conservation Network (VCN)'s Legislative Committee and Board of Directors and is supported by Virginia's conservation community. For a complete list of VCN positions, visit www.vcnva.org/bill-tracker. VCN is committed to building a powerful, diverse, and highly-coordinated conservation movement focused on protecting our Commonwealth's natural resources today and for tomorrow.