

SUPPORT HB 2035

Topic: Data Center Transparency

Bill Patron: Delegate Shelly Simonds

OVERVIEW:

HB 2035 requires all high-energy use facilities (30+MW), mainly encompassing data centers, in operation to disclose to the Department of Environmental Quality information relating to water and energy usage for each facility. The bill also requires DEQ to establish a publicly accessible website to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for information relating to water and energy usage of all high-energy use facilities. The bill also facilitates a system in which the data center pays for the DEQ reporting website.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- As the data center industry continues to grow around Virginia, they are placing extreme strain on our state and regional water and energy supplies.
- Despite this fact, information about total energy use and water use by the data center industry, particularly as it pertains to a certain locality or planning district, is not available to the public or decision makers.
- As decision makers for local governments and the general public weigh future development proposals in their area, having full information about existing facilities is a crucial part of the planning process. Moreover, as state lawmakers weigh the potential need for large water or electricity infrastructure projects, they should seek to be informed with a complete picture of large energy and water users around the state.
- Finally, shared information about water and energy use, as well as positive metrics like energy efficiency, waste heat reuse, water reuse, and other metrics, will provide societal pressures for the data center industry to become more efficient and better actors across the board.



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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.