

OPPOSE HB 2185 / SB 1077 & HB2693

Topic: Regulation of electric utilities; development of renewable energy facilities; powers of State Air Pollution Control Board; powers of State Corporation Commission.

Bill Patron: Delegate Freitas, Senator Peake, Delegate Griffin

OVERVIEW:

Repeals:

- Regulations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and authorization to establish an auction program for emission allowances.
- Prohibition on approval of new carbon-emitting generators.
- Public interest designation for solar and battery storage build targets.
- Air Pollution Control Board's authority to investigate, take legal action, and hold public hearings in response to air pollution complaints, or enforce air pollution regulations.

Establishes public interest designation for planning and development of new nuclear facilities.

REASONS TO OPPOSE:

- In 2020, the General Assembly took major steps to protect our environment by passing the Virginia Clean Economy Act, joining RGGI, and establishing regulatory authority to further reduce pollution. These essential climate programs put the Commonwealth on a path to climate stability while creating a robust domestic clean energy workforce.
- HB 2185 strikes many of the fundamental pieces of that progress by eliminating provisions that usher in clean energy investments, reduce and regulate air pollution, and prevent unnecessary build-out of new fossil fuel generators, putting climate progress, public health, and Virginia workers at risk.
- Given their history of significant cost overruns and prior abandonment of the \$600 million dollar North Anna expansion project, the State Corporation Commission should retain full authority to vet utility proposals for new nuclear generators.



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