

# OPPOSE SB1091 / HB2197

Topic: Renewable Portfolio Standard

Bill Patron: Sen. Hackworth, Del. Kilgore

## OVERVIEW:

This legislation would add existing and future nuclear power plants to the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS), allowing nuclear to earn Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

## REASONS TO OPPOSE:

- **This legislation is not needed:**
  - The Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) already allows for zero-carbon nuclear energy to supply as much electricity to the grid as the SCC deems cost-effective, up to 100%.
  - Nuclear energy does not need to be supported by RECs. Last session, the General Assembly passed a bill ([SB454](#) & [HB1491](#)) requiring ratepayers to pay for the development of small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs) before they even start generating any electricity—a major departure from standard customer protection principles.
- **This legislation could destroy Virginia’s solar market for years:**
  - The RPS is designed to encourage *new* renewable energy development.
  - This bill, however, would allow Dominion to earn RECs using *existing* nuclear facilities, meaning they will be able to satisfy RPS requirements with existing nuclear facilities and will not need to build new wind or solar for years.
  - In the mid-2030s, once Dominion may need to pursue new RECs, the utility will be more likely to choose new nuclear—an expensive and risky proposition that would erode resource diversity and increase costs to ratepayers.
  - We need as many zero-carbon energy sources coming online as possible to meet growing energy demand. Permitting nuclear to take the place of wind and solar in the REC market will have the opposite effect.



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