

OPPOSE HB 2365 & HB 1875

Topic: Renewable portfolio standard program; zero-carbon electricity

Bill Patrons: Delegate Tony Wilt (HB 2365) & Delegate Robert Bloxom (HB 1875)

OVERVIEW:

- These bills would add hydrogen and nuclear to the definition of “renewable energy.”
- The definition of “zero-carbon electricity” would be changed so that coal-fired or natural gas-fired power plants would qualify for the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) as long as they capture their CO₂ emissions.
- “Gray” hydrogen would be an RPS-eligible resource. Gray hydrogen is manufactured from natural gas and produces CO₂ and other air pollution.
- Finally, the bills would allow *any* resources approved by the SCC to qualify for the RPS if they “reduce greenhouse gas emissions in comparison to marginal grid emissions at the time of installation.”
 - This means that in the early years, gas-fired power *without* carbon capture technology would qualify for the Renewable Portfolio Standard if the SCC found that it would reduce marginal grid emissions at that time.

REASONS TO OPPOSE:

- The purpose of the RPS—established in the Virginia Clean Economy Act—was to spur the development of new carbon-free electric generation resources like wind and solar, so that Virginia can create a carbon-free electric grid by mid-Century.
 - These bills would reduce investment in wind and solar
 - These bills would incentivize fuels/technologies that emit carbon and other air pollutants during their production (e.g., the manufacture of hydrogen from natural gas, the extraction and transport of fossil fuels, etc.).
 - It is unnecessary to include nuclear in the RPS, as the nuclear power produced by Dominion Energy reduces the company’s RPS obligation under current law.



Appalachian Voices
Peter Anderson
Director of State Energy Policy
peter@appvoices.org
(434) 249-6446



Virginia Conservation Network
Lillian Anderson, Director of Clean Energy &
Climate Justice Programs
lillian@vcnva.org
(434) 960-7419

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.