

OPPOSE HB 1184

Topic: Electric utilities; retirement of certain electric generating units.

Bill Patron: Delegate O'Quinn

OVERVIEW:

Relaxes retirement requirements for gas plants with carbon capture capability or “emissions-positive” gas plants.

The bill creates loopholes that keep fossil fuels alive. By allowing “emissions-positive” units and natural gas with carbon capture to operate through 2045 and beyond, the bill risks locking in fossil fuel infrastructure based on unproven or weakly regulated climate accounting rather than requiring truly zero-emission energy.

REASONS TO OPPOSE:

- It creates loopholes that keep fossil fuels alive. By allowing “emissions-positive” units and natural gas with carbon capture to operate through 2045 and beyond, the bill risks locking in fossil fuel infrastructure based on unproven or weakly regulated climate accounting rather than requiring truly zero-emission energy.
- Utilities have been clear that carbon capture technology is too expensive to implement at any meaningful scale. Therefore, the legislation creates a loophole to build new, polluting gas plants with the promise of future technology that is unlikely to ever be implemented.
- Carbon capture has not been proven at scale, can fail or underperform, and does not address upstream methane leakage.
- Simply being “capable” of an indeterminate percentage of capture leaves room for the continued use of gas plants wherein 99% of emissions are uncaptured.



Victoria Higgins, Virginia Director
vhiggins@chesapeakeclimate.org
Victoria: (201) 937-7017



Lillian Anderson, Director of Clean Energy &
Climate Justice Programs
lillian@vcnva.org
Lillian: (804) 220-1126

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.