

# RURAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE

## Infrastructure Program and Fund

*HB324 (Delegate Sullivan)*

### REASONS TO SUPPORT

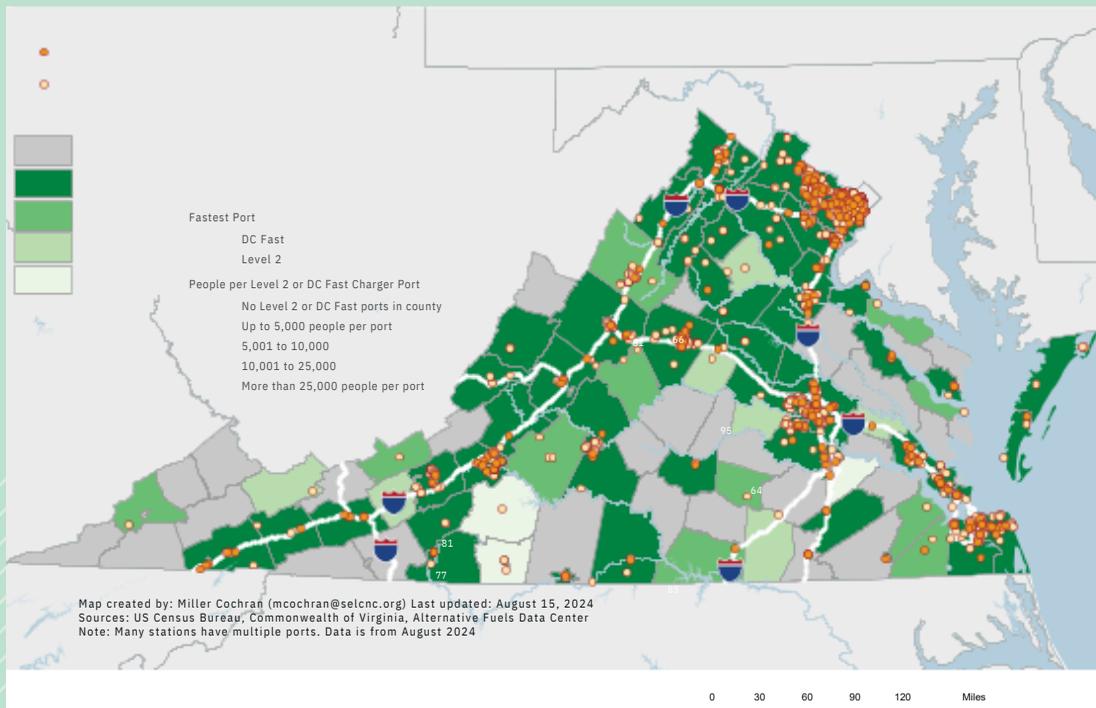
- More EVs hit Virginia's roads every day, and **Dominion Energy projects that there will be over 750,000 EVs in its territory by 2030.** Virginia's statewide public charging infrastructure is not yet sufficient to meet our current or future needs.
- **Developers will be more eager to invest** in charging infrastructure in low-income and rural areas if there are dedicated funds to defray part of the cost of installation. Without a strong statewide public charging network, EV drivers will not be able to travel to many areas of Virginia, especially rural areas.
- EV charging stations near tourist destinations in low-income and rural localities **will ensure that people continue to visit these regions** as EVs become more prevalent. Tourism contributes nearly \$1 billion in revenues for local governments, supporting essential services, local businesses, and jobs in all regions of the Commonwealth.
- A recent study from MIT found that **public EV charging stations bring in additional revenue to nearby businesses.** By supporting these investments, this bill helps businesses in rural and low-income communities across Virginia, whether they choose to install chargers or are located near another business that does.
- The federal government provided over \$100 million in dedicated funding for EV chargers along major highways, but other programs designed to address rural and low-income areas are being rolled back. Outside of some planned station locations along major highways, **Virginia does not currently have funds set aside for EV charging stations in rural areas** that are not along major highways or in low-income areas. Without dedicated support for charging in these areas, many Virginians will continue to be left behind.
- EVs are significantly cheaper to operate per mile than gas, and many EVs are now achieving purchase price parity with traditional gas vehicles. This bill will **allow rural residents to reap the cost savings** of going electric.
- While most people charge at home most of the time, consumers tend to purchase vehicles with their longest road trips in mind, and **renters may face barriers to at-home charging.** Publicly accessible EV charging is critical to ensure that all Virginians can fuel the vehicle of their choice.



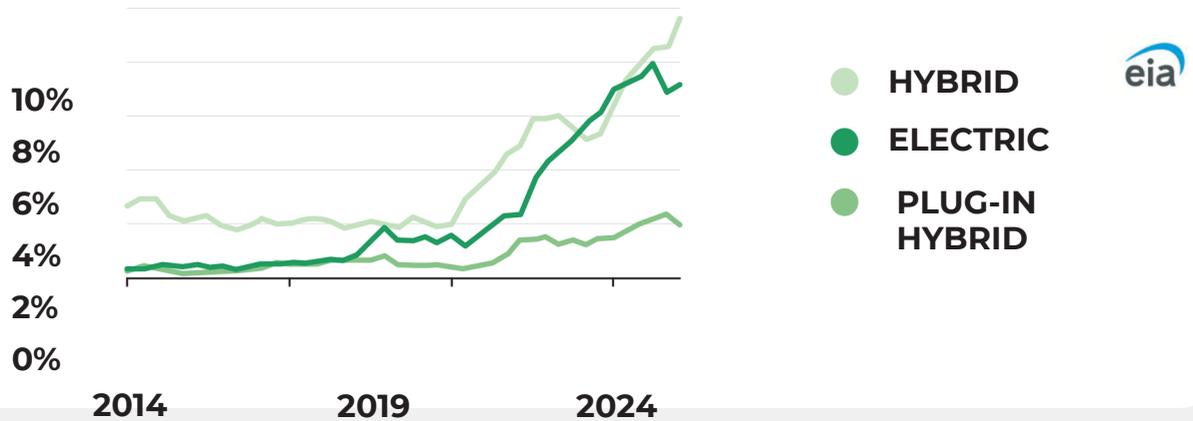
### SUMMARY

This bill creates the Rural Charging Infrastructure Program and Fund, providing developers with grants covering up to 70% of the costs associated with the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in rural and low-income localities, as well as at state parks and near federal lands. The Program would help to fill critical gaps in the Commonwealth's EV charging network. The Program would prioritize installation at locations with existing public amenities such as convenience stores, visitor centers, food retailers, and small businesses. Because it is intended to complement, not supplant, federal funding for EV charging, a locality would not be eligible for Program funding if it has received an already-awarded and obligated federal grant to build out its EV charging infrastructure.

# RURAL AND LOW-INCOME LOCALITIES LACK CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE



## EV SALE GROWTH: BREAKOUT OF EV AND HYBRID SALES



### LEARN MORE:

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