

SUPPORT HB457 / SB26

Topic: Solar Canopy

Bill Patron: Delegate Krizek, Senator Carroll Foy

OVERVIEW:

Allows localities to require developers to install a solar canopy over parking areas. This would only apply to nonresidential parking areas with 100 parking spaces or more and the locality may require solar for up to 50 percent of the parking area. Localities would also be able to develop incentives for districts that fall under this category.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Virginia needs to accelerate our renewable energy production in order to decarbonize our economy as quickly as possible. We have made a lot of progress but have notably lagged in the deployment of solar in the built environment.
- Advocates have long pointed to parking lots as a potential site for solar as they make up a considerable percentage of land in the built environment, can be equipped without impacts on their intended use, and can help reduce the heat island effect by providing shade and reflecting the sun while producing energy.
- This legislation would give Virginia communities an important tool to accelerate adoption of solar as we continue our move away from fossil fuels.



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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.