

OPPOSE HB565 / SB470 to stop changes to Virginia's Renewable Portfolio Standard and Accelerated Renewable Energy Buyers Program

Patrons: Del. Reid and Sen. Marsden

Oppose new nuclear energy in Virginia's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

This bill would allow new, non-utility owned, nuclear power plants to count toward Virginia's RPS goals.

Background:

This bill changes what qualifies as an "RPS eligible source," and lists new nuclear energy alongside wind and solar as an equivalent. This change effectively allows a data center operator to build a nuclear power plant starting July 1, 2030 and that power generation will count toward Virginia's RPS goals.

Reasons to oppose new nuclear in the RPS:

- This legislation encourages development of nuclear energy by data centers.
- This bill would change Virginia law to treat nuclear energy as equivalent to wind and solar power as an "RPS eligible source." No preference is given to wind and solar over nuclear energy in this new criteria for "RPS eligible source".
- Nuclear power presents a multitude of concerns - waste and storage, safety, terrorism, and weapons proliferation to name the most apparent.
- Nuclear power is not a renewable energy source.

Oppose leveraging the Accelerated Renewable Energy Buyers program to extend or upgrade Old, Expensive Nuclear Power Plants

This bill would add nuclear energy to the Accelerated Renewable Energy Buyers program, and allows the AREB program to be leveraged to prevent the decommissioning or early retirement of nuclear plants when their operation becomes financially unstable.

- Existing law allows participants in the Accelerated Renewable Energy Buyer (AREB) program to purchase renewable energy across PJM.
- Nuclear energy is not renewable energy, and should not be treated as an equivalent.
- Nuclear energy is the most expensive form of energy.



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