

# OPPOSE SB684

Topic: Zero Waste

Bill Patron: Senator Head

## OVERVIEW:

Establishing the Virginia Recycling Development Center and the Virginia Recycling Infrastructure Fund; supporting statewide recycling infrastructure; incentivizing voluntary stewardship programs; authorizing public-private partnerships; and addressing priority materials including waste tires, mattresses, and bulky waste.

## REASONS TO OPPOSE:

- The bill does not include measurable recycling targets, clear performance metrics, or strong oversight tied to environmental outcomes. Without enforceable requirements, there is no guarantee of meaningful improvements in recycling rates or litter reduction.
- Without requiring producers to help design and fund recycling systems for their products, local governments and taxpayers continue to bear the cost of waste management.
- Recycling infrastructure is critical, but funding should come from the industries that profit from producing and selling disposable products, not Virginia taxpayers.
- Voluntary stewardship programs rely on incentives and subsidies rather than accountability, subsidizing private industry with public funds. Voluntary programs often function as public subsidies for industry rather than effective environmental solutions.
- Public funds should be tied to demonstrable results, not open-ended programs.
- Allocating public dollars to voluntary programs risks diverting resources away from essential public services while subsidizing private initiatives.
- This legislation relies on public funding for programs that primarily benefit private companies, shifting costs away from producers and onto taxpayers.
- Without strict guidelines on what qualifies as “recycling infrastructure,” funds may support technologies like plastics-to-fuel manufacturing, posing serious risks to air quality and public health.
- Taxpayer dollars should strengthen proven systems, not subsidize voluntary industry programs



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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](http://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.