

Grassroots Conversations: Legislative Victories

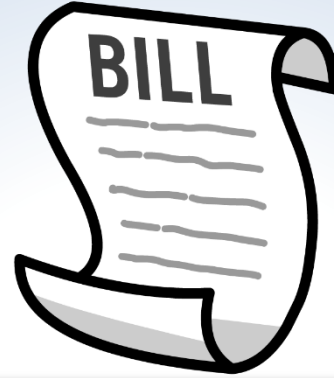


What to Expect



Describe SCVA's Legislative Process

- Legislative Committee
- Lobby Day
- Advocacy Impact and Actions



Legislative Accomplishments

- Multiple speakers
- Review Legislation by topic



Questions

- Use the comment box to ask questions any time!
- Each topic will include a Q + A section



Legislative Advocacy Process

Virginia chapter is committed to a grassroots process

- Legislative Committee made up of volunteers
- Members vote on positions and assist with messaging
- Sierra Club staff executes the will of the committee and works with partners
- Much of our lobbying is volunteer-led!

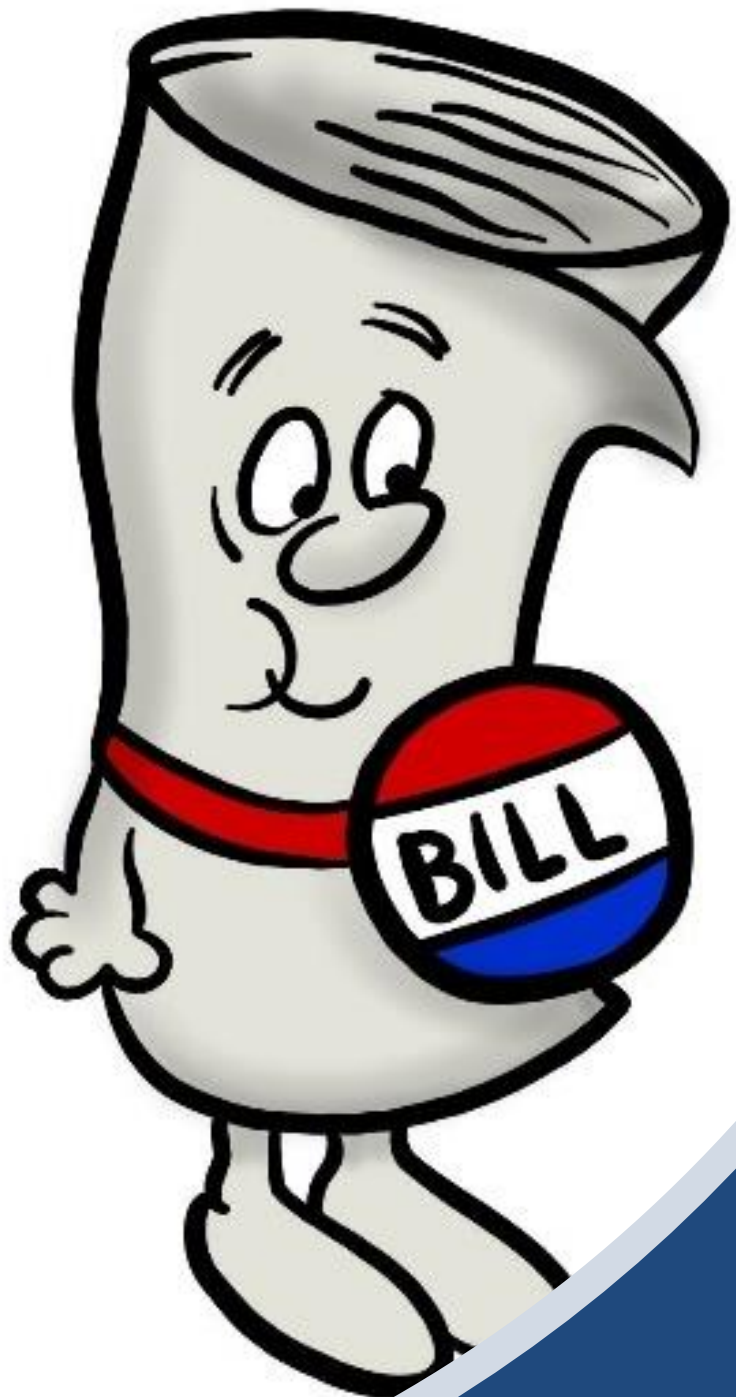
Legislative Issue Leads

- Legislative Committee Chair: Bob Shippee
- Water Chair: Steve Carter-Lovejoy
- Sustainable Energy Co-Chairs: Ivy Main and Susan Stillman
- Redistricting/Good Government Chair: Glen Besa
- Energy Efficiency Chairs: Bill Penniman and Brian Castelli
- EV Chair: Gary Greenwood
- Fracking Chair: Linda Muller
- Transportation Chair: Karen Campblin



2020 Impact:

- Unprecedented amount of bill positions - over 180 !
- Hosted the first Clean Energy Lobby Day with more than 200 attendees!
- Many votes were party line, underscoring significance of last election
- No significant bill we opposed passed
- Advocacy = nearly 10,000 total actions



Legislative Victories

We didn't get everything we wanted, but Virginia moved forward on A LOT of issues including:

- Pipelines
- Fracking and Offshore Drilling
- Toxics
- Environmental Justice
- Clean Energy & Carbon Reduction

This forum does NOT cover all bills we followed/ advocated for

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Victories Against Carbon Infrastructure

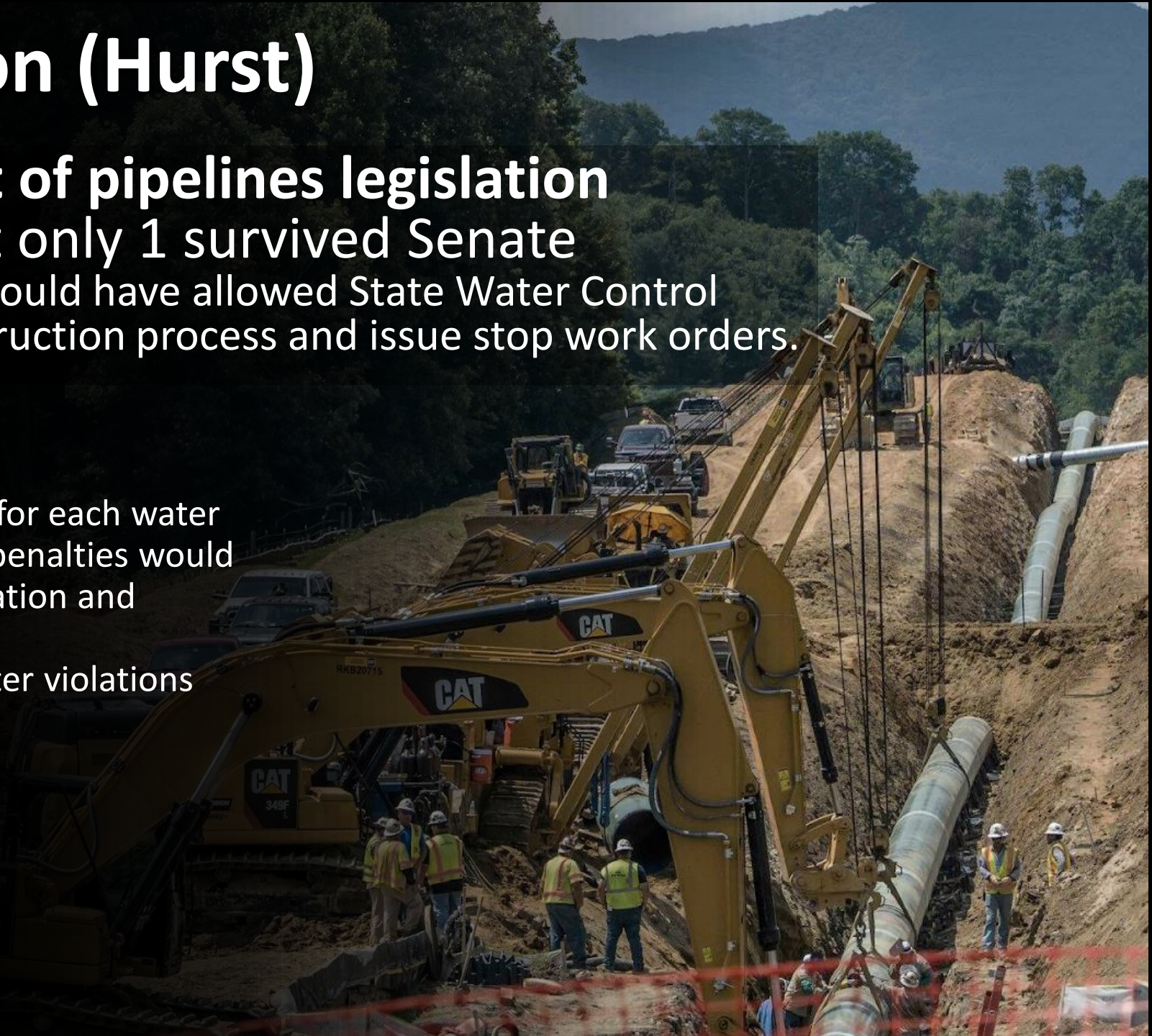
Pipelines Legislation (Hurst)

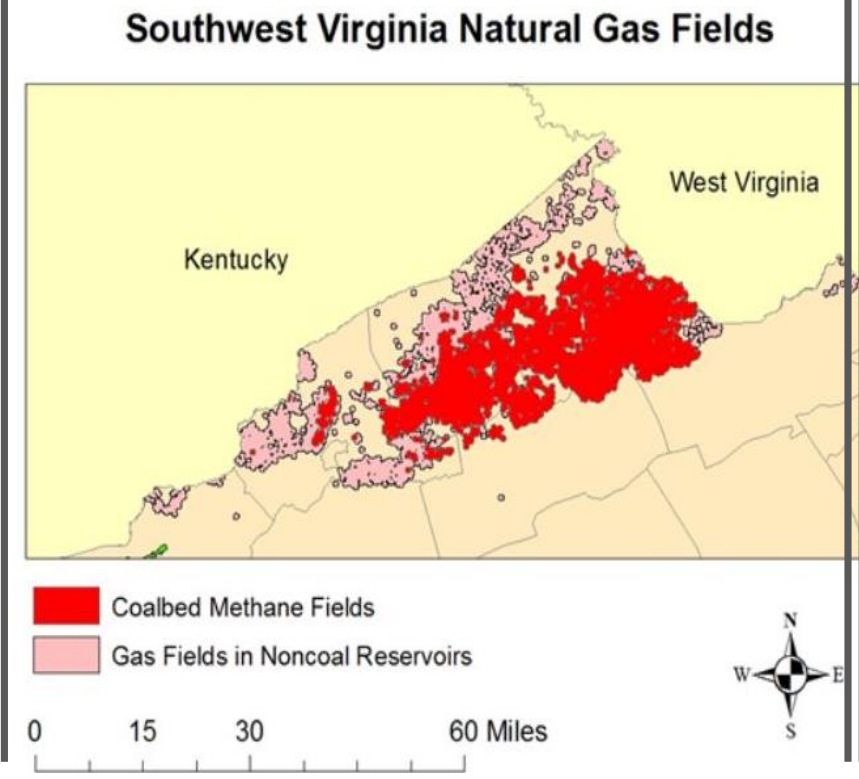
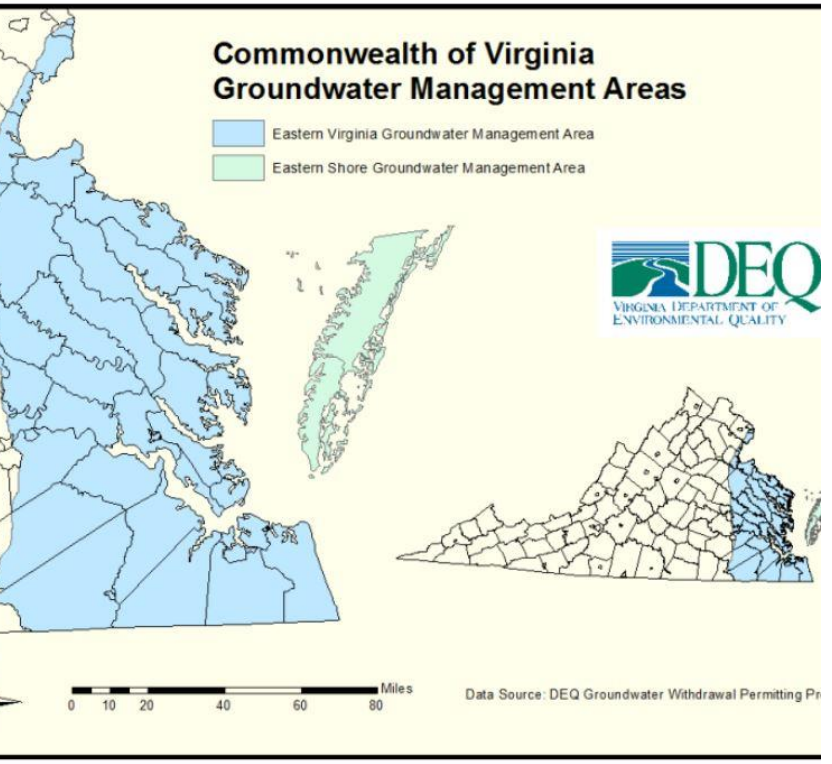
Unprecedented amount of pipelines legislation

- All passed House, but only 1 survived Senate
 - HB 643 & 644 (failed) would have allowed State Water Control Board to monitor construction process and issue stop work orders.

HB 646 (Passed!)

- Authorizes an increase in the fine for each water violation and for each order. Civil penalties would increase to up to \$50,000 per violation and \$500,000 per order.
 - MVP alone has over 600 water violations





Fracking Ban SB 106 (Surovell)

An offshore oil rig structure is shown in the background, featuring a complex network of metal platforms, ladders, and pipes. The rig is supported by several large, dark, cylindrical legs extending into the ocean. The sky is overcast, and the water is a muted blue-grey. The rig has various colored sections, including blue, yellow, and orange.

Offshore Drilling Ban

HB 706 (Keam) & SB 795 (Lewis)

- Removes current code in VA law expressing support for offshore oil and gas development
- Prohibits infrastructure (pipelines, storage, processing facilities) in VA coastal waters (up to 3 miles out) intended to facilitate drilling in the outer continental shelf

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Water Quality and Toxics

Water Quality

Chesapeake Bay Clean Up (Del. Plum & Sen. Mason)

- Needed to implement WIP-III, the final Watershed Implementation Plan designed to meet Bay cleanup goals by 2025
- Requires Bay watershed farmers to implement Nutrient Management Plans
- Will lead to exclusion of livestock from state waters

Impressive funding for water quality programs:

- \$95M for Agricultural Cost Share programs (less than asked for)
- \$50M for localities for stormwater management improvements
- \$50M for wastewater treatment plant improvements

Water Quality (Cont.)

Drinking Water Supply Planning (Del. Carr)

- Requires DEQ to establish regional water supply planning areas and facilitate localities to work cross-jurisdictionally to create regional water supply plans

Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements (Sen. Stuart)

- Requires City of Richmond to eliminate remaining CSO outflows polluting the James River by 2035
- Budget amendment provides \$25M for Alexandria CSO construction in process



Coal Ash (Carroll Foy)

HB443 addresses Appalachian Power Coal Ash Impoundments in western VA

- The coal ash at Glen Lyn power plant on New River in Giles County will be recycled or removed to a safe off-river landfill within 15 years
- The coal ash at Clinch River power plant has already been capped in place under an approved DEQ permit, but Appalachian Power will monitor and report on these capped impoundments

Drinking Water Protections

HB586 (Guzman) charges the Dept of Health to create a study group to study PFAS and report back to the legislature in December 2021 concerning the threat of PFAS state drinking water, with recommendations for enforceable maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

HB1257 (Lopez) passed and goes into effect on January 1, 2022. It charges the Dept of Health to establish MCLs for PFAS as well as 2 other chemicals of concern - chromium-6 and 1,4-dioxane.

Plastics



- Localities are enabled to adopt a \$.05 tax on plastic bags (Del. Carr & Sen. Ebbin)
- Statewide ban on use of extruded polystyrene (Styrofoam) for most prepared food containers (Del. Carr)
 - Implementation by 2023 for chains with 20 or more locations; by 2025 for other food vendors
 - Bill passed with “reenactment clause” (won’t go into effect until voted again next year)

Questions?



Transportation

Transportation is the #1 source of carbon pollution in Virginia

- HB 585 (Del. Guzman) requires localities to create plans to reduce transportation pollution
- Green New Deal coalition bill



Environmental
Justice
Protections

Environmental Justice: the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Improving Notifications, Public Input Standards

SB 1075 (Sen. McClellan)

- Increasing notification standards for Air polluters (Sen. McClellan)
 - Extends notifications to 5-mile radius of projects
 - Increases amount of information regarding a project's impact
 - Extends public comment period to 60 days
- Apply to MOST projects affecting air quality
 - Generation Facilities
 - Compressor stations
 - Does not include pipelines 😞

Codifying Environmental Justice



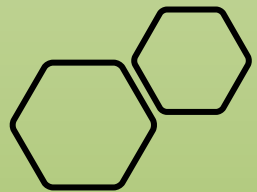
HB 704 (Del. Keam) and SB 406 (Sen. Hashmi)

- Creates basic EJ framework for state government agencies
 - Requires Governor and cabinet secretaries to develop policies that promote EJ
 - Authorizes state agencies to adopt EJ regulations
 - Creates interagency working group to coordinate environmental justice policies

HB 1042 (Del. Herring) and SB 883 (Sen. Locke)

- Codifies the Environmental Justice Council

Questions?



Clean Energy and Climate Solutions

Solar Freedom

SB710 (McClellan), HB572 (Keam) and HB1184 (Lopez)

- Raises net metering cap from 1% to 6%
- Increases PPA cap to 1,000 MW for Dominion, 40 MW for APCo
- Increases commercial project size cap to 3MW, residential to 25 kW
- Eliminates standby charges under 15 kW
- Amount of solar can be 150% of previous year's demand (Dom. only)
- Allows shared solar for apartments and condos (Dom. only)
- Enables landfill solar project in Fairfax County

HB414 (Delaney), SB504 (Petersen)

- Limit HOA authority over rooftop solar



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (Del. Herring and Sen. Lewis)



Limits total greenhouse gas emissions from power plants



Directs DEQ to enter RGGI action Process



Revenue from auction helps fund initiatives such as flood preparedness, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation planning

Virginia Clean Economy Act

Comprehensive Climate Action Bill



Requires the closure of most coal plants in Virginia by the end of 2024, biomass by 2028



Requires Dominion's Portfolio to be 100% Renewable by 2045, and ApCo's by 2050



Puts in place an immediate two-year moratorium on new carbon-emitting plants



Creates Va's first mandatory Energy Efficiency Resource Standard



Requires State Corporation Commission to consider "social cost of carbon"



Massive goals for solar and onshore wind (15 GW Dom, 600 MW ApCo), OSW (5.2 GW) AND storage (2,7000 MW DOM, 400 MW APCo)

Resources

Learn More

- Blog on clean energy policy and politics in Virginia: [Powerforthepeople.com](https://www.powerforthepeopleva.com)

Take Action

- Virginia chapter action page: [vasierra.club/vaaction](https://www.vasierra.club/vaaction)
- Sign up to be a volunteer lobbyist: [vasierra.club/volunteerlobbyist](https://www.vasierra.club/volunteerlobbyist)

Questions? Comments?