

2010 Virginia General Assembly

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Conservation Issues and GCV Official Stance

| Water/Mountaintop Removal Issue | Bill Number/Patron | GCV Stance |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Stream Saver Bill | SB 564/ Senator Ticer | Support |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This legislation would end the practice of filling Virginia headwater streams with coal mining waste.• Mountaintops and ridges are blasted apart with explosives and the resulting waste material is dumped into nearby valleys, permanently burying streams and poisoning waterways for miles downstream.• Mountaintop removal coal mining destroys Virginia's water quality, our geologically old mountains, our forests, and the economic viability of Southwest Virginia. As of 2009, Virginia has nine active mountaintop removal permits. Five of them, encompassing 2,498 acres, are "active/partial producing."• 67 Virginia Mountains have been leveled by this type of mining. The EPA has documented 151 miles of Virginia streams as buried or mined-over as of 2001 (it's most recent assessment). | | |

| Regulatory/Citizen Input Issue | Bill Number/Patron | GCV Stance |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Change Code of VA to Suspend any Regulation Therein | SB 442/ Senator Wagner | Oppose |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This bill would give the authority to suspend Virginia's regulations to an appointed commission, the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules.• Basically, this bill cuts the people out of the process. It is the overreach of the power of a single committee in Richmond. The Joint Commission on Administrative Rules could review the rules and regulations of any agency to determine whether or not to suspend it. | | |

| Energy Issue | Bill Number/Patron | GCV Stance |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Electric Energy Efficiency Standard | SB 71/Senator McEachin | Individual Position No GCV stance |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires each utility to implement a portfolio of cost-effective energy programs that will reduce the end-user consumption of electric energy by 12.2 percent in year 2022.• Virginia Conservation Network has officially endorsed this bill.• The best thing about this bill is that it creates a standard for measuring greenhouse gas emissions in Virginia. It does this by measuring the consumption of electric power by retail customers. However, mandatory reductions---even though they're slight---will be opposed by utilities. GCV's Conservation Committee hopes this will not jeopardize passage of the bill as was the case last year. | | |

| Waste Reduction Issue | Bill Number/Patron | GCV Stance |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Plastic and Paper Bag Fee | HB 1115/Delegate Ebbin | Individual Position No GCV Stance |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This bill would levy a \$.05 fee for each disposable plastic or paper bag provided to the consumer by retailers in grocery stores, convenience stores and drugstores. The fee is collected by the retailer, who retains \$.01 and remits \$.04 to the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Fund.• This is the same bill that was enacted into law in Washington, D.C. in order to clean up the Anacostia River. Both the James River Garden Club and GCV's Conservation Committee have conducted research on plastic bag legislation. While this may not be the ideal initiative for Virginia, we applaud Del. Ebbin. GCV member clubs may individually decide to endorse it. | | |