

# **VALCV Statements of Legislative Position 2009 General Assembly (December 2008)**



## **Citizen Involvement**

- ✓ **Bipartisan Redistricting**  
VALCV supports a bipartisan process for redistricting in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

## **Clean and Safe Energy**

- ✗ **Uranium Mining**  
VALCV opposes any action that would seek to lift the moratorium on the mining or milling of uranium in Virginia.
- ✓ **Green Jobs**  
VALCV supports the promotion of green collar jobs and workforce training.
- ✓ **GHG Inventory**  
VALCV supports mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reporting and inventory.
- ✓ **Energy Efficiency**  
VALCV supports legislation that will foster large-scale energy efficiency programs in Virginia. Such programs should include a mandatory energy efficiency resource standard of 19% by 2025 and incentives for electricity generation companies to conserve power.
- ✓ **Net Metering**  
VALCV supports increasing the ability to sell renewable energy back to the grid.
- ✓ **Weatherization Assistance**  
VALCV supports legislation that establishes a residential electricity customer fee of \$0.25 a month per residential customer. The money acquired through this fee, totaling \$9 million/year, will be deposited into the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The funding shall be distributed at the following rates: 25% for direct funding.
- ✓ **Green Building**  
VALCV supports increasing Virginia localities' authority to promote green building through a streamlined process for permitting.
- ✓ **Funding for Renewable Research**  
VALCV supports full funding for the Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium in FY09.

## **Forestry**

- ✗ **Jurisdictional Conflicts in Forestry**  
VALCV opposes the repeal of the "Right to Practice Forestry Act" which gives localities the power to regulate logging.
- ✓ **Department of Forestry Authority**  
VALCV supports enabling the Department of Forestry to enter private property to enforce water quality laws.

## **Land Conservation**

### **✗ Land Preservation Tax Credit**

VALCV opposes limitations on credits claimed under the Land Preservation Tax Credit program.

## **Land Use and Transportation**

### **• Proffers vs. Impact fees**

VALCV urges careful deliberation before the General Assembly considers repealing the proffer system. A fair balance must be struck between what the public taxpayer and the private developer must pay toward the cost of infrastructure necessitated by new development. Impact fees must not be limited to education, roads, and public safety but should also cover a range of other community service such as parks and open space, water quality and water supply protections, libraries and other civic institutions. Finally, any system should be constructed so that it creates the incentive to develop within urban development areas, and not outside UDAs.

### **✓ Rail Enhancement Fund**

VALCV supports amending the Rail Enhancement Fund to make it compatible with federal rail resources.

### **✓ Passenger Rail**

VALCV supports a study that will examine how Virginia should pay for state-sponsored passenger rail.

### **✓ Comprehensive Plans**

VALCV supports more realistic comprehensive plans. Comprehensive plans should include the following: realistic population estimates, build out assessments, alternative build out scenarios, and build out costs.

## **Water**

### **✓ Drinking Water**

VALCV supports protection of potential local drinking water resources identified in the state water resource study to be consistent with protections given to existing drinking water resources.

### **✓ Targeting Runoff Pollution through Agricultural Best Management Practices**

VALCV supports increased funding for Agricultural BMPs for FY09.

### **Contact:**

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