

# POSITION STATEMENT FORM

## GENERAL SUBJECT AREA -- TITLE OF PROPOSAL

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – MANDATORY REPORTING

## PROPOSAL:

Support legislation that would require that the State Air Pollution Control Board adopt regulations requiring the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources. This would apply to those sources that emit greenhouse gases and that are already required to report emissions of other air pollutants. Legislation could also require those same parties to report greenhouse gas emissions from fleets of motor vehicles. Legislation should require the DOT to provide the DEQ with data necessary to maintain a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for individual road segments throughout the Commonwealth. The legislation should authorize the establishment of a voluntary program allowing persons to register voluntary reductions in direct or indirect emissions of greenhouse gases.

## SOURCE:

Environmental Quality Advisory Council, August 13, 2008

## BACKGROUND:

In Virginia, reporting of greenhouse gas emissions is not currently required. In the 2008 legislative session, attempts to authorize reporting requirements (HB1230 and SB234) were not successful. SB234 was approved in the Senate by a 25-15 vote but was left in the House of Delegates' Committee on Commerce and Labor (as was HB1230). EQAC's proposal is to support legislation that may be considered in the 2009 session similar to what had been proposed in 2008. The Board of Supervisors supported SB 234 last year.

On July 16, 2007, Fairfax County, with other large counties from across the country, joined the Sierra Club in announcing the creation of the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, a major new initiative to combat global warming. The counties — led by Fairfax County, King County, Wash., and Nassau County, N.Y. — pledge to reduce global warming emissions 80 percent by 2050, an achievable average annual reduction of 2 percent. The Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration also urges the federal government to adopt legislation requiring an 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050 and calls for fuel economy standards to be raised to 35 miles per gallon within a decade.

On July 9, 2008, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) released a draft National Capital Region Climate Report that includes significant greenhouse gas reduction goals for the region as well as 78 recommendations to help area leaders and citizens meet the targets. Due to the region's strong employment and population growth, COG calculates that man-made greenhouse gas emissions, which cause climate change, will increase 33 percent by 2030 and 43 percent by 2050 under a business-as-usual approach. In order to have a meaningful impact in the fight against climate change, COG's Climate Change Steering Committee, which authored the report, recommends policies that will reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions. The report's main recommendations highlight energy use, transportation and land use.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**POSSIBLE SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION BY ORGANIZATIONS:**

In the 2008 legislative session, SB234 was approved by a 25-15 Senate vote. The patron of the bill was Senator Whipple, and the bill was supported by many Senators from Northern Virginia. The chief patron of HB1230 was Delegate Vanderhye; eight other delegates were patrons of this bill.

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