

POSITION STATEMENT FORM

(Completed form to be provided to the Legislative Committee)

GENERAL SUBJECT AREA -- TITLE OF PROPOSAL:

Renewable Portfolio Standard

PROPOSAL: *(Provide brief description of legislative or funding position)*

Support legislation that requires utilities to meet renewable portfolio standards that cost-effectively and substantially increase the use of renewable energy. Cost-effective energy efficiency is in the public interest, and should be encouraged as the first resource before new generation is built.

SOURCE: *(Provide the name of the agency, board, or commission generating the proposal and the date of the proposal)*

EQAC, August 10, 2016

BACKGROUND:

*(Briefly summarize why the position(s) is/are necessary to the County; list any pros/cons, note any previous Board of Supervisors action or previous General Assembly study or action on this issue; note any other helpful information. **This section should provide a synthesis of the proposal and should be no more than one paragraph, two if necessary; the Board wants concise information in the Legislative Program. Please use "Additional Background Information" on the next page to more fully explain the proposal. If you are submitting more than one proposed position, please include background information for each position.)***

Energy efficiency saves Fairfax County ratepayers money by reducing the need for electricity in peak and off-peak periods, thereby reducing the need for new generation, transmission and fuel-burning. That saves money and reduces pollution, including carbon emissions. It will help Fairfax meet its Cool County pledge and lower energy costs. Investing in efficiency before generation is a prudent utility practice that has benefitted other states. However, effective utility efficiency programs have been defeated in Virginia by utilities' efforts to constantly increase sales and rate-base, by the SCC's implementation of a complex four-part test for efficiency programs, and by the voluntary nature of Virginia's energy efficiency goals, which utilities are not even close to meeting.

Delegate R. Sullivan introduced HB 576 in the 2016 session—the bill would require investor-owned electric utilities, cooperative electric utilities and investor-owned natural gas distribution utilities to meet incremental annual energy efficiency goals. The bill was referred to the Committee on Commerce and Labor and continued to 2017. Delegate Sullivan plans to introduce the bill in 2017, possibly with changes.

POSSIBLE SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION BY ORGANIZATIONS:

(List any organizations or groups, if any, which might be in favor of or against the proposed position)

Governor McAuliffe has convened an Executive Committee on Energy Efficiency. This legislation is a high priority for environmental groups including the Virginia Conservation Network (a coalition of 150 organizations) and the Sierra Club. Dominion Virginia Power will probably oppose it.

STAFF CONTACT PERSON(S):

(Provide name and phone number of County staff person(s) best able to provide any additional research or necessary information)

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