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Senator Boysko:

Thank you for being a leader on energy efficiency, climate change, and environmental justice. We appreciate the hard work you and your staff are doing on a number of legislative items. We would like to highlight a few bills and budget items that we support that would help create further advancements to protect the environment.

Support – Waterworks; contaminants, PFAS chemicals, notification to customers. SB1013

Sponsor: John Edwards

- This bill requires a waterworks owner to notify customers when a water quality analysis reveals PFAS chemicals.

Support – Siting of data centers; impacts on resources, site assessment. SB1078

Sponsor: Danica Roem

- This bill would block the construction of data centers within one mile of a national park site, a state park, or other historically significant site. The bill also requires that prior to any approval of a data center by a local government, a site assessment must be performed to examine the effect of the data center on water usage and carbon emissions, as well as any impacts on agricultural resources.

Support– Data center development; DOE to study impacts on Virginia's environment, etc. SJR240

Sponsor: Danaca Roem

- Virginia hosts the largest concentration of data centers in the world. We need to understand the impacts. SJ240 and HJ522 direct the Department of Energy to study the effects of the huge and rapidly-growing data center industry on Virginia's environment, economy, energy resources, and ability to meet carbon-reduction goals.

Oppose– Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. SB1129

Sponsors: John McGuire, Michael Webert, Buddy Fowler

- This legislation would extend the deadline for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan by 5 years to 2030.
- This extension is much too long to reach targets, and would likely set back considerable progress that has been made toward a restored Chesapeake Bay.

In addition to these bills, we have detailed specific budget amendments on the following page.

PO Box 1892, Leesburg, VA 20177

We support more funding for the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, wildlife corridors, and invasive species management. These would provide critical funding to support conservation and environmental education that would inspire and engage people to protect and conserve wildlife habitat. They help create a world where people and wildlife thrive together.

Support – Farmland Preservation Fund: 98 #3s

- This amendment allocates \$5M in FY24 to the Virginia Farmland Preservation Fund, a mechanism vital to preserving our natural landscapes and retaining Loudoun’s rural character.

Support – Invasive Species Management: 100 #2s, 108 #4s, 374 #13s, 382 #2s

- These amendments provide staff to implement the Virginia Invasive Species Management Plan.

Support – Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: 375 #7s

- This amendment will help the efforts of the Virginia Land Conservation Fund to better keep pace with the rising cost of lands to be preserved and allow for more projects to be funded each year.
- This amendment also brings more certainty and much needed support to a proven program that is returning an incredible investment to Virginia’s agricultural and forest industry.

Support– Wildlife Corridors: 382 #3s,

- This amendment provides funding in FY24 for wildlife corridors that would play a key role in increasing and maintaining habitat connectivity.

Support– Wildlife Corridors: 452 #12s

- This amendment provides funding for the establishment of a wildlife crossing to limit motor vehicle crashes that imperil both wildlife and humans.

Support– Statewide Study of Forests and Tree Canopy Relative to Chesapeake Bay Commitments: 108#2s

- This amendment provides \$500K for a forest and tree canopy coverage study.

Support– DCR Assistance to SWCDs for VACS Program and Engineering Design: 374#4s

- This amendment provides funding for positions to enhance training and technical assistance provided by the Department of Conservation & Recreation to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Thank you for your time and your dedication towards protecting the environment.

Sincerely,

Trinity Mills
Conservation Advocacy Specialist
Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy