



Litter Free Virginia

OPPOSE SB1365

Topic: Local regulation of materials recovery facilities.

Bill Patron: Senator Lynwood Lewis

Reasons to oppose SB1365:

- This will prohibit localities from stopping the development of waste to energy facilities and plastics to fossil fuel production facilities. Localities should not be forced to accept polluting industries if it is not the will of residents.
- “Material recovery facilities” need to be clearly defined; plastics-to-fuel facilities must require regulations that allow for local input. Solving the problems that come with plastics to fuel facilities should not be ignored or rolled into material recovery facility definitions.
- “Chemical recycling” or “advanced recycling” are fossil fuel industry terms for plastic to fossil fuel production. This polluting and energy intensive process has not proven commercially viable in over 40 years
- Virginia taxpayers provided \$215,000 to Braven Environmental for a plastic to fuel manufacturing facility through economic development grants. Braven is not building that facility. This is a pattern seen all over the country including Utah, Ohio, Idaho, Florida, Oregon, and Virginia. None of these states have a facility operating at scale.
- 79% of waste to energy facilities are located in low-income and communities of color. These facilities expose residents to harmful particulates that cause cancer, respiratory illnesses, and neurological disorders.
- Plastic to fossil fuel production facilities require an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Permit and release toxic chemicals including lead, arsenic, mercury, bisphenol-A, cadmium, benzene, brominated compounds, phthalates, tin, antimony, and volatile organic compounds.

Overview:

This bill would enable harmful, polluting facilities to expand across Virginia under the guise of creating much needed material recovery facilities with the most severe impacts placed on vulnerable populations. Plastic to fossil fuel manufacturing has not been proven to be economically or environmentally sustainable. The solution to the plastic crisis is reducing waste at its source, not dangerous downstream approaches.
