

OPPOSE HB 2008

Erosion and Sediment Control, 10,000 square foot minimum disturbance
Delegate Keith Hodges

Reasons to oppose HB2008:

1. HB2008, introduced by Delegate Hodges (R-98th District), will undermine the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, which has protected Virginia's tidal streams and Bay waters since 1988.
2. This bill would severely weaken provisions that, for example, keep sediment and other pollutants from flowing off construction sites and into local waterways. Currently, developers need to install silt fences, stabilize banks, and take other important steps to keep dirt out of our waterways when they disturb more than 2,500 square feet. HB2008 would allow four times as much land to be disturbed -- up to 10,000 square feet -- before developers are required to take these important steps to prevent sediment pollution. This is a step backward.

Overview

Opponents claim that Bay Act restrictions impede economic development. According to UVA's Weldon Cooper study, "Virginia's population growth remains concentrated in its Urban Crescent, which stretches from Northern Virginia through Richmond to Hampton Roads, with nearly 90 percent of population growth since 2010 located in the three metro areas." These areas are covered by the Bay Act.

Thanks to the Bay Act, the Bay is improving despite pressures from this development. The last thing Virginia should do is roll back the protections that lead to clean water and thriving communities.



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