

# Support SB910

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## Virginia Oil and Gas Act; sampling and replacing contaminated wells

### What this bill does:

1. Expands the radius of groundwater well testing from 750 feet to 1,320 feet
2. Expands the radius for mandatory water supply replacement when contamination occurs

### These changes track with the recently revised DMME oil and gas regulations.

- The regulatory process took three years and included input from various stakeholders including the oil and gas industry, localities, the environmental community and state agencies.
- The new regulations, which took effect December 28, 2016, require testing of private wells within 1,320 feet of a drilling site before and after drilling.
- Testing will identify concentrations of certain chemicals and compounds including: chlorides, dissolved gases such as methane, pH, sulfate and more.

Across the country, there have long been concerns about the chemicals injected underground in fracking operations, the risks to public health and the environment, and the widespread lack of public access to information. **Expanded testing and water supply replacement is critical for communities close to natural gas drilling operations—support SB910.**

# Support SB911

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## Orphaned Well Fund; surcharge

### What this bill does:

1. Increases the Orphaned Well Fund surcharge from \$50 to \$200
2. Includes technical amendments

### Virginia has 10 known orphaned wells (wells abandoned prior to 1950).

- It is the responsibility of the Commonwealth to safely plug and restore these wells.
- The average cost of plugging and restoring an orphaned well is \$50,000.
- Virginia requires each operator applying for a new oil and gas permit to pay a \$50 surcharge to be used for the reclamation of these abandoned wells.
- The current surcharge has been in place since 1990, and DMME has determined that this surcharge must be increased.

**Plugging and restoring orphaned wells across the Commonwealth is important for the health and safety of Virginians—support SB911.**

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