Five Reasons Siting Reform Delivers Affordable, Reliable, Homegrown Energy for Virginians

Reason 1: Affordability for Ratepayers

Utility-scale solar is one of the most affordable ways to generate new electricity. Without it, ratepayers will pay more for new fossil fuel plants and pipelines. Solar avoids volatile fuel prices, keeping energy bills stable and delivering long-term savings for households and employers alike.

Reason 2: A More Reliable Grid

PJM, Virginia's grid operator, has found that reliability depends on removing barriers to renewable generation. Utility-scale solar – especially when paired with battery storage – provides reliable, affordable power and reduces the risk of blackouts. Without them, Virginia would be forced to lean more on gas plants, making the grid less resilient and more dependent on fossil fuels.

Reason 3: Homegrown Energy, Better Reliability

Producing clean, homegrown power reduces reliance on imported fuels subject to price spikes and geopolitical instability. Expanding Virginia's clean energy mix strengthens energy security, keeps dollars in local communities, and protects ratepayers from unpredictable global markets.

Reason 4: Preserving Local Authority

Siting reforms give local governments clear, consistent standards to review renewable projects – while preserving their authority to approve or reject them. Localities will always decide whether a project moves forward, and nothing in these reforms' forces approval of unwanted projects. The intent of Virginia's siting reform is to provide clear, common-sense standards for good projects, let communities weigh those standards against public input and land-use factors, and give developers the certainty needed to bring responsible investment to communities across the Commonwealth.

Reason 5: Protecting Property Rights

Landowners should decide how best to use their land. Solar projects provide steady farm income, preserve family ownership, and keep land productive for the future. A Virginia-focused siting process ensures all landowners are treated fairly while respecting their right to determine the highest and best use of their property.

The Bottom Line

With siting reform, Virginia can deliver affordable, reliable, homegrown energy while protecting communities and respecting landowners.