

VACo Environment and Agriculture Steering Committee

August 18, 2022

Update on 2022 General Assembly Actions Review of 2023 Draft Policy Statement



2022 Virginia General Assembly Review

- **Forest Sustainability Fund** – Created and capitalized with \$1 million.
- **Agritourism Event Buildings** – Created technical advisory committee to recommend potential building code standards.
- **Nutrient Credits** – DEQ workgroup to make recommendations on addressing the retiring of agricultural land for nutrient credits.



2023 Draft Policy Statement (Economic Development & Planning)

Regulation of Event Spaces

VACo opposes exemptions to local review and enforcement of building, fire, and other health and safety regulations for event and assembly spaces.

2023 Proposed Policy Statement Amendment (Environment & Agriculture)

Biosolids

VACo supports an effective statewide regulatory program governing land application of biosolids. Such a program should not infringe upon the authority of local governments to monitor compliance.

VACo supports the ability of local governments to propose amendments to biosolids permits as they are considered by DEQ.

VACo also supports including in the statewide regulatory program measurement and monitoring protocols for the presence of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in biosolids, recommended mitigation measures, and restrictions on the use of excessively contaminated biosolids for agricultural uses.