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Conservationists and Energy Industry Unite in Support of Sen. Chap Petersen's SAVE Act

Richmond, Virginia – January 25, 2010 – The environmental and the energy communities united in support of Senator Chap Petersen's SAVE Act, Senate Bill no. 112, at the Senate Commerce and Trade Committee meeting on Monday afternoon.

According to Cathie France of the natural gas industry, a significant portion of Virginia's natural gas delivery infrastructure is aging and needs to be replaced due to life cycle and efficiency issues.

The SAVE Act would permit natural gas utilities to petition the Virginia State Corporation Commission for a rider that would allow them to invest in the replacement of "qualified" gas delivery infrastructure by enabling more immediate and effective cost recovery.

Infrastructure that "qualifies" for replacement includes that which is significantly outdated, whose replacement would not produce additional revenue for the gas utility and whose replacement has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"The four main benefits are reduced maintenance costs and improved reliability, environmental benefits including greenhouse gas reductions, decreased costs to customers from "lost and unaccounted for" gas and the addition of needed jobs for Virginians," testified Lisa Guthrie, the Virginia League of Conservation Voter's Executive Director.

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the advocacy of conservation issues defined by various organizations such as the Sierra Club and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

Supported by conservation groups such as the Interfaith Center of Power and Light and the Virginia Conservation Network, the SAVE Act has been scheduled to be voted on by the committee next week.

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