

Dear Ms. Moore:

The Climate Action Alliance of the Valley (CAAV) is a volunteer, grass-roots not for profit organization, headquartered in Harrisonburg, with over 450 members.

CAAV's mission is to limit the impact of humans on Earth's climate, thereby providing for the common good by protecting the future of Earth and its inhabitants. CAAV's goal is to have legislators who are familiar with the best scientific understanding of climate change so that they will consider the climatic impacts of any decisions they make. By so doing we hope to bring about the systemic change required to protect Earth's climate and its associated benefits for current and future generations.

As you are a candidate in the November 2015 election for a General Assembly seat representing a district in the CAAV area, we request your completion and return of this questionnaire by e-mail to: contactcaav@gmail.com. We have also attached the questionnaire in Word format in case you prefer to reply using it rather than replying directly in this email. By using this electronic format the document will automatically expand to accommodate your narrative responses while retaining the sequence of questions. Upon receipt, your reply will be converted without modification or editing into pdf format and posted on our website (climateactionallianceofthevalley.org). The pdf version will also be sent to all CAAV members via our email list. **Please return the completed questionnaire to us by September 11, 2015.**

Name: **April Moore**

Office you are seeking: **State Senator, 26th district**

1. The U.S. EPA issued its final **Clean Power Plan (CPP)** on August 3rd. The CPP is "designed to strengthen the fast-growing trend toward cleaner and lower-polluting American energy." These final emission guidelines, which rely in large part on already clearly emerging growth in clean energy innovation, development and deployment, will lead to significant carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission reductions from the utility power sector that will help protect human health and the environment from the impacts of climate change.

What legislation will you introduce or support to help Virginia meet its Clean Power Plan goals?

Fortunately, Virginia is already at 80% of its EPA goal. I would work for legislation to bring our state to 100% compliance. Such legislation would have Virginia join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and it would include expanded incentives for wind and rooftop solar. And Dominion Power would be required do its share as well.

2. The **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)** is a cooperative effort among the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont to cap and reduce CO2 emissions from the power sector. Through 2013, more than \$1 billion in RGGI auction proceeds were invested in programs including energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and direct bill assistance. RGGI is one tool that can help Virginia meet its Clean Power Plan goals.

Will you introduce or support legislation calling for Virginia to join the current RGGI coalition, or another multi-state cooperative effort modeled on RGGI? Yes___ No ___ Please explain your position.

Absolutely yes. RGGI would be great for Virginia. In RGGI-member states, consumers' electric bills have fallen, and carbon emissions have fallen as well. Besides, this is an approach that does not raise taxes. The power sector would pay.

3. The 2015 General Assembly passed SB1349, regarding **electric utility rates**, which includes provisions that bar the State Corporation Commission (SCC) from conducting a biennial review of the rates, terms, and conditions for any service of Dominion Virginia Power for the eight test periods beginning January 1, 2013, and ending December 31, 2020, a "Transitional Rate Period" that coincides with the early phase for implementation of the EPA Clean Power Plan. Recently, the SCC staff has issued findings that Dominion owes rate-payers \$64M in refunds and that Dominion's base rates are currently too high by about \$312 million a year.

Will you introduce or support legislation that rescinds SB1349 so that the State Corporation Commission can resume its statutory responsibilities regarding electric utility rates? Yes___ No ___ Please explain your position.

Yes, I would work to repeal SB 1349. There is no good reason Dominion Power--a monopoly that is selling us a necessity--should be shielded

from state oversight. SB 1349 means more money for Dominion at the expense of the people and should be repealed.

4. Beyond the Clean Power Plan goals, Virginia has the option of supporting the increased use **of renewable energy**, principally solar and wind sources, and to increase **energy efficiency**.

Will you introduce or support legislation that removes or reduces statutory limitations on the adoption of renewable energy? Yes___ No ___ Please explain your position.

Yes. We need to make it easier, not harder, for Virginians to embrace renewable energy. Renewable energy saves money and helps protect our climate.

5. **Climate Change Impacts** are already being detected and are projected to increase in Virginia. Virginia's coastal zone is the second most vulnerable region in the U.S.--surpassed only by the area surrounding New Orleans--to the predicted impacts of climate change. Additional impacts across all of Virginia will include increasing incidents of extreme heat, drought, flooding, extreme weather, and infectious diseases.

What legislation will you introduce or support to help Virginia mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts?

The Coastal Protection Act, which incumbent state senator Mark Obenshain helped to defeat, would be a great start. I would bring back this bill and work to build bi-partisan support for it.

6. Over the past 20 years, Virginia has provided more than \$500 million **in tax credits to the coal industry**. Coal is the most greenhouse gas emitting power source. In 2012, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) issued a report which was strongly critical of these tax credits, which are currently set to expire January 1, 2017.

Will you pledge to allow the coal industry tax credits to expire on January 1, 2017? Yes___ No___ Please explain your position.

Absolutely. Virginia taxpayers have spent more than enough money propping up the declining coal industry. It's time to focus on clean,

renewable energy sources, not coal. These tax credits must not be renewed.

7. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration's Annual CO2 Inventory for the Commonwealth of Virginia, 51% of our carbon emissions are coming from the **transportation sector**.

What legislation, such as reduced taxes on alternative fuel vehicles, increased availability of light rail passenger service, expanded adoption of alternative fuel vehicles for state and local government fleets, will you introduce or support to help reduce carbon emissions from Virginia's transportation sector?

There is a great deal we can do to reduce carbon emissions from transportation. I will sponsor/vote for legislation that expands public transportation, including light rail. I would work to increase incentives for the purchase of hybrid and electric vehicles. I would also support legislation to encourage the increased use of electric cars by increasing consumers' charging options. And I would work to help the state and local governments transition to energy-saving vehicles.

8. **Methane** is a main component of natural gas and has a global warming potential more than 25-times greater than CO2. Nearly 30 percent of methane emissions in the U.S. in 2012 came from oil production and the production, processing, transmission and distribution of natural gas. Methane emissions from the oil and gas industry are projected to increase by about 25 percent over the next decade if additional steps are not taken to reduce emissions from this rapidly growing industry. The U.S. EPA issued proposed methane regulations on August 18, 2015.

**Will you take legislative actions that will facilitate Virginia's adoption of, and compliance with, these proposed regulations? Yes___ No___
Please explain your position**

Yes. I would certainly vote to adopt the EPA's proposed methane regs. In addition, I would work for strong regulation of fracking, a huge source of methane emissions.

9. Please describe any **other actions** you would take in the General Assembly to help Virginia reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, support the adoption of renewable energy, and manage the impacts of climate change.

I would work to repeal the Dillon Rule, which prevents cities and counties from going beyond Virginia state law. Why shouldn't more progressive jurisdictions have the option to create stronger incentives for clean energy?