

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****



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**CHARLIE SCHMIDT, CANDIDATE FOR HD77, DENOUNCES CHESTERFIELD GAS PLANT
AND VIRGINIA CLEAN ECONOMY ACT LOOPHOLES**

Chesterfield, VA –

Yesterday, I attended the final Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) hearing regarding the proposed gas-fired power plant in Chesterfield. What I witnessed makes one thing clear: the Commonwealth of Virginia is failing Chesterfield residents.

For more than two years, local residents and environmental advocates have worked tirelessly to protect their communities, their air, and their future. They have shown unwavering commitment to preserving the environment for themselves and their families. Their efforts continue to be overshadowed by policies that prioritize industry over people.

It is long past time for Virginia to close the gas-plant loophole in the Virginia Clean Energy Act. This loophole undermines the purpose of the act and continues to open the door for new fossil-fuel infrastructure at the expense of community health and climate progress.

We must put people over profits.

And as data-center development accelerates across the Commonwealth, one principle must guide future planning: any new data center must be fully self-sufficient and should not rely on new polluting power generation that harms nearby communities.

Virginia deserves an energy future that is clean, just, and accountable. Chesterfield residents deserve nothing less.

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