

Please Co-Patron and Support HB2213!

This bill is crucial to establish a moratorium on commercial gold mining until a study can be done on the extent of damage it will cause to Virginia's communities and environment.

Why is this so important?

- **Commercial gold mining hasn't been done in Virginia for nearly 75 years, and Virginia's regulations are not adequate to protect our waters from such operations**
- **Virginia's geography and climate increase the hazards to the James River watershed and other watersheds - groundwater and surface water resources that millions of people rely on for drinking water – that sulphides, tailings, and other toxic by-products associated with the mining and processing of gold pose**
- **The processing of gold and other elemental metals often utilizes cyanide, adding to the hazards for local surface- and ground-water that nearby communities and downstream communities rely on as main water resources**
- **Gold and other elemental metals mining, especially in areas having geography like Virginia's, often requires the process of dewatering, which would affect the water availability in existing private drinking wells and could create discharge into the James River watershed and other watersheds**
- **Gold mining also poses a threat to nearby air and soil quality, further impacting communities in proximity to such operations**
- **There is a gold-pyrite belt spanning from Fairfax to Halifax counties, and a Canadian company has been doing exploratory drilling for gold in Buckingham Co. since at least 2016 - all of which was done without the County Administration's knowledge - and has indicated they have secured other property for metals mining in at least one other Va. county**

Please co-patron and support HB2213, which establishes a moratorium on commercial gold mining until a study is completed – the drinking water and health of Virginians depend on it!