

Bullet Points in Opposition to SB 1195

- Constitutional issues of search and seizure and the potential litigation liability.
Constitution of Virginia, Article I. Bill of Rights
Section 10. General warrants of search or seizure prohibited
That general warrants, whereby an officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places without evidence of a fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, or whose offense is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are grievous and oppressive, and ought not to be granted.
- This bill seeks to expand the powers of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) ***without a defined health risk.***
 - Fresh produce is one of a very few foods not heavily regulated.
 - This bill would expand inspection from actual production facilities to just about anywhere.
 - This bill will authorize a "fishing expedition" by VDACS funded by USDA grants leading to its own source of revenue, outside of the legislature.
 - Just this last year, VDACS imposed new produce regulations on farmers markets without legislation.

VDACS is out of control and needs to be constrained not expanded.

- The impact on orchard and vegetable farms would be dramatic, giving consumers few choices other than industrialized agriculture.
 - This bill will have a detrimental impact on Virginia agriculture, particularly small farms.
 - Small farms are failing due to over regulation.
 - The loss of small farms will drastically damage Virginia's agricultural nature.
 - This is a loss of revenue issue for the state, in that the majority of the industrialized food industry is not based in Virginia.

We need to keep Virginia's consumers' food purchases going to in-state producers, not to multi-national corporations.

- Buy local is a major trend with food consumers.
 - The state should be finding ways to capitalized on that market, not minimize it.
- I believe many of you ran on a limited government platform, I expect you to keep that promise.

How did the people of the Commonwealth survive for the last 283 years without this legislation?

As Mark Twain observed:

"No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session."