



## **2017 Legislative Priorities**

### **Water Quality Standards Rule -- Category A and others**

We are opposed to any weakening of water quality standards in West Virginia, including Category A (public water intake) standards. Water quality standards already have been weakened with respect to selenium and conductivity. After the 2014 water crisis--which poisoned the drinking water for 300,000 people in nine counties--industry groups renewed their push to weaken Category A protections in all streams and rivers across the state. WVEC opposes and will fight this latest attempt to lower water quality.

### **Local Energy Efficiency Partnerships (LEEP)**

LEEP would help eliminate barriers to making commercial buildings more energy efficient by providing property owners with an alternative financing structure to retrofit with energy saving measures and eliminate upfront costs by receiving 100% financing. These loans would be repaid as an additional property tax assessment with no effect on current local tax revenues. By harnessing private capital, the LEEP Act would create permanent private sector jobs, strengthen local economies, and improve our building stock for years to come. LEEP is a completely voluntary program on the part of local governments and property owners. Currently 31 states and the District of Columbia have legislation enabling local governments to offer these options to building owners, and we believe that West Virginia should offer this program as well .

### **Wholesale Generation Siting**

The WVEC will ask the WV Legislature to protect the health and welfare of citizens and the environment by requiring the Public Service Commission to ensure sensible rules for the placement (siting) of all Exempt Wholesale Generators. The PSC must be required to partner with other state agencies with expertise on threats to the environment generally, to wildlife in particular, and on other potential dangers to watershed integrity, diminishment of historic resources, and noise; expertise on which the PSC lacks. Such legislation is in the best interests of the state's agencies (including the PSC), its environment, and its citizens.

### **Disclosure of Campaign Funding**

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. FEC has allowed electioneering groups to raise unlimited money without revealing their source. The corporate elite, billionaires, and millionaires shouldn't be dictating who gets elected in our state by anonymously giving six-figure checks for mud-slinging TV and other ads. We must require any group that spends more than \$1,000 to influence our elections to say where their money came from. West Virginians stand up for what they believe in. We shouldn't allow this lowly form of campaign cowardice to continue.

We also support Congressional action opposing Citizens United, including an amendment to the US Constitution providing that corporations aren't "people" entitled to the "rights" of natural persons,

specifically so that the expenditure of corporate money to influence the electoral process would no longer be allowed.