



**January 21, 2023**

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**Distributors are Refiners Bill Will Be Considered Tuesday - Your Contacts Needed NOW**

Legislation by Delegate Maldonado (D Manassas) [House bill 2363](#) to define distributors as refiners will be considered by a House Commerce and Energy Subcommittee Tuesday. Classifying our membership as refiners will, for the first time ever, subject them to a Virginia law mandating that dealers are given right of first refusal to purchase a location, prohibit distributors/jobbers from operating a station within a mile and a half of a dealer, and will have many other negative provisions.

To date we have been unable to determine what has led to the introduction of this legislation. Last Wednesday, Board Chairman Mark Anderson and Mike O'Connor attended a meeting with Delegate Maldonado and Senator McPike who is sponsoring an identical Senate bill. Also present was a station owner from Prince William County and his financial advisor. During the hour and a half meeting (which is highly unusual during session) we repeatedly asked why the bill was introduced and what specific problems it was designed to address. Each time we were answered in platitudes and generalities. We offered to work with them on issues of concern outside of the legislative process. We left emphasizing that we strongly oppose their legislation. If we are to defeat these bills, we need you to act.

**IMPORTANT Calls Needed Monday Morning  
Stop the General Assembly From Devaluing Your Business  
Oppose House Bill 2363**

Following are the members of the subcommittee and the number to their office in Richmond.

Delegate Israel O'Quinn (Abingdon) (804) 698-1005  
Delegate Terry Kilgore (Gate City) (804) 698-1001  
Delegate Danny Marshall (Danville) (804) 698-1014  
Delegate Tony Wilt (Harrisonburg) (804) 698-1026  
Delegate Kay Kory (Falls Church) (804) 698-1038  
Delegate Don Scott (Portsmouth) (804) 698-1080  
Delegate Cliff Hayes (Chesapeake) (804) 698-1077  
Delegate Kathy Byron (Bedford) (804) 698-1022

If you have businesses or employees in these areas, the above listed Delegates need to hear from

you first thing Monday morning. Call their Capitol offices. You can use the following points:

- I am not a refiner or a major oil company. If House bill 2363 becomes law and the Virginia General Assembly defines me as a refiner, it will devalue my business and potentially redistribute my life's work to others. That is not the Virginia way.
- The proponents of the bill have chosen not to articulate why they have submitted this bill and specifically what they seek to accomplish.
- Station owners across the nation with perceived grievances today are using the Federal Petroleum Marketing Practices Act to bring suit to Federal court. If these Virginia station owners have complaints, they should use the process as prescribed in Federal law. Instead, they have chosen not to do that and are attempting to use the General Assembly to pass legislation without justification that will negatively impact not only my business but also our employees and Virginia consumers.
- We urge you to vote NO on House bill 2363

While these two bills have taken a majority of our time in the first two weeks of session, there are a number of other items we are actively tracking. [Click here](#) to view that list.