CEUR
Commission on
Electric Utility Regulation

**Energy Commission of Virginia**
**SUBCOMMITTEE 1 PUBLIC MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 1:00 p.m.**
Senate Room B, 3rd Floor, General Assembly Building
201 N. 9th Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Meeting materials posted here
Live Streaming via Senate of Virginia (YouTube Channel)
Register here to provide virtual public comment (video required)

**MEETING AGENDA**

**1. Welcome and Roll Call** (Delegate Irene Shin, Subcommittee Co-Chair)

**2. Staff Presentation on Proposed Utility Transfer** (Carrie Hearne, Executive Director)

**3. Guest Speakers on Utility Transfers, Consumer Protections, and Consolidation of Utilities in the Southeast**

a. Joshua Macey, Professor of Law, Yale Law School
b. Ben Weintraut, Ph.D. Candidate, Duke University, Nicholas School of the Environment
c. David Lapp, People's Counsel, Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC)
d. Kent Chandler, Senior Fellow, R Street Institute

**4. Public Comment** (Delegate Irene Shin, Subcommittee Co-Chair)

a. Please state name and affiliation. Comments may be time limited.

**6. Next Steps** (Delegate Irene Shin, Subcommittee Co-Chair)

**5. Adjourn** (Delegate Irene Shin, Subcommittee Co-Chair)

*Agenda is subject to change.*

**Members of Subcommittee 1, Energy Commission of Virginia**

**Senate**
The Honorable Scott A. Surovell (Chair)
The Honorable Mark D. Obenshain
The Honorable R. Creigh Deeds

**House of Delegates**
The Honorable Irene Shin (Vice Chair)
The Honorable Richard C. (Rip) Sullivan Jr.
The Honorable Michael J. Webert

**Citizen Members**
Mr. Meade Browder
The Honorable Angela Navarro

## Staff of the Energy Commission of Virginia

Carrie Hearne, Executive Director
Jamie Bitz, Sr. Energy Policy Analyst
Ana Vivas Thomas, Energy Policy Analyst

## Speaker Bios

### Joshua Macey

### Professor of Law, Yale Law School



**Joshua Macey** is a Professor of Law at Yale Law School. Macey teaches and writes about bankruptcy, environmental law, energy law, and the regulation of financial institutions.

Professor Macey has received numerous awards for his scholarship. In 2023, the American Bankruptcy Institute named Macey to its list of 40 Under 40 Emerging Leaders in Insolvency Practice. Macey has also won the Morrison Prize — awarded to the "most impactful sustainability-related legal academic paper published in North America during the previous year" — on three occasions (given, respectively, for "Zombie Energy Laws," 73 Vanderbilt Law Review; "Long Live the Federal Power Act's Bright Line," 134 Harvard Law Review; and "Clean Energy Through Grid Reliability," 74 Stanford Law Review). The Corporate Practice Commentator recognized Private Profits and Public Business (103 Texas Law Review) as one of the top ten articles of 2025; the paper also won the 2024 Berkeley-ECGI Corporate Governance Forum Prize (junior category). His paper "Does ESG Crowd In or Out Support for Government Regulation" received the American Law and Economics Review's 2026 Best (Empirical) Paper Prize. His work has also been cited by multiple courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court (Harrington v. Purdue Pharma L.P., 603 U.S. 204 (Kavanaugh, J., dissenting).

Prior to his appointment at Yale Law School, Macey served as an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School. He served on the University of Chicago Law School's Journal and Faculty Appointments Committees, as well as the University of Chicago Business Law Review's Faculty Advisory Board.

From 2019 to 2020, Macey was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at Cornell Law School. He previously worked at Morgan Stanley and clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Macey also co-authored the sixth edition of the leading energy law casebook, Energy, Economics, and the Environment.

Macey holds a B.A. from Yale College and an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He earned a J.D. from Yale Law School, where he served as an Editor of the Yale Law Journal.

**Ben Weintraut**

**Ph.D Candidate, Duke University**

**Ben Weintraut** is a Ph.D. candidate in energy and environmental economics at Duke University and an affiliated researcher at Duke's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability. His research examines the effects of electric utility mergers, consumer responses to electricity prices, and long-term structural changes in the U.S. power sector. He previously served as a Staff Economist at the White House Council of Economic Advisers and worked as an Associate Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. He holds an M.A. in public policy from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in economics and political science from the University of Georgia.



**David Lapp**

**Maryland People's Counsel**

**David S. Lapp** was appointed People's Counsel in 2021 by Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh. David has 30 years of combined experience as a lawyer, policy analyst and writer focusing on public policy and corporate accountability in important segments of the economy. His positions have required mastery of complicated legal issues and competing public policy goals. As an attorney, his work has emphasized state and federal regulatory policy in the utility, tobacco, and healthcare industries.



Until his appointment as People's Counsel, David worked from 2004-2020 as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland (OAG). David served as Chief Counsel for OAG's tobacco enforcement unit, leading the state's litigation and enforcement of the billion-dollar

multi-state tobacco settlement agreement, after which he served as Deputy Counsel for the Maryland Department of Health, addressing healthcare industry regulation and providing advice and representation to the State Medicaid Program.

David graduated in 1998 from the University of Maryland School of Law, Order of Coif. He served as Articles Editor of the Maryland Law Review and received several academic awards. Following law school, he served as a law clerk on the Maryland Court of Appeals (now the Maryland Supreme Court) for Judge Howard Chasanow. He received his Bachelor of Arts with honors in 1989 from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana.

**Kent Chandler**

**Senior Fellow, R Street Institute**



**Kent Chandler** is a non-resident Senior Fellow in energy and environmental policy at the R Street Institute. He previously led the organization's positions, strategy, and engagement on electricity policy. Kent previously held notable positions including executive director (and later, chairman) of the Kentucky Public Service Commission and assistant attorney general in the Kentucky Office of Rate Intervention, where he advocated on behalf of consumers on energy and utility issues before local, state, and federal agencies.

In his four years as a commissioner, Kent led two groups of state regulators, including the Organization of PJM States, Inc., to advocate for state interests in the Mid-Atlantic wholesale electricity market. Kent also engaged in the Midwest wholesale electricity market as a board member of the Organization of MISO States. He served in leadership roles at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and represented states' interests as part of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's Member Representatives Committee.

He holds a juris doctor degree from Northern Kentucky University and a bachelor's degree in finance from Murray State University.