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# NetChoice

Protecting Free Speech and Free Enterprise Online

Virginia HB 2094

Veto Request

February 22, 2025

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
Governor of Virginia  
Patrick Henry Building  
1111 E. Broad St, 3rd Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Veto request for Virginia House Bill 2094

Dear Governor Youngkin:

On behalf of NetChoice, a trade association working to make the Internet safe for free enterprise and free expression, we strongly urge you to **veto House Bill 2094**. If enacted, HB 2094 would:

- restrict artificial intelligence development and deployment,
- stifle innovation,
- harm Virginia's growing tech economy, and
- ultimately limit consumer choice.

At this critical point in AI development, policymakers face a fork in the road. The bipartisan U.S. House of Representatives Task Force on AI recently posted [its comprehensive report](#) calling for a balanced approach to AI governance - one that promotes innovation while putting appropriate guardrails in place. HB 2094 is the opposite approach – adopting a restrictive regulatory model found in the European Union (EU) that has proven detrimental to technological advancement and economic growth.

The Trump administration is drawing a stark contrast to the EU's approach. Last month, President Trump signed an executive order on "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence." Advancements out of China, such as the release of DeepSeek, highlight the urgency of this effort. Virginia should not be erecting new barriers as the Trump administration seeks to tear them down. Vice President JD Vance reinforced this

in his February keynote at the Paris AI Action Summit, explaining that "excessive regulation of the AI sector could kill a transformative industry just as it's taking off."

HB 2094 would impose regulatory and compliance burdens that would disproportionately impact small businesses and startups seeking to scale. The [House Task Force report](#) specifically warns against such burdens because they stifle innovation and competition. HB 2094 would force companies to navigate complex requirements and significant legal liability without clear standards or safe harbors. Moreover, HB 2094 is unnecessary given existing civil rights laws and consumer protection regulations at both the Commonwealth and federal level.

Virginia has historically been a leader in tech innovation thanks to its light-touch regulatory approach. This prudent policy framework is a major reason why American companies build and shape the Internet we know today. Many of these firms have built significant footprints in the Commonwealth, from data centers to headquarters, creating thousands of direct and tens of thousands of indirect jobs. None of this is coincidence. HB 2094 would undermine this successful model.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you to veto HB 2094 and maintain Virginia's position as a leader in technological innovation that promotes both progress and appropriate protections.

Sincerely,

Steve DelBianco  
President & CEO  
NetChoice

*NetChoice is a trade association that works to protect free expression and promote free enterprise online.*