



Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance, Inc.

"Promoting Coal through Education & Public Awareness"

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **VCEA Endorses Delegate Israel O'Quinn (R-5<sup>th</sup> District) for Reelection to the Virginia House of Delegates**

The Virginia Coal & Energy Alliance ("VCEA") announced today its endorsement for the reelection of Delegate Israel O'Quinn to the Virginia House of Delegates in the 5<sup>th</sup> House District.

In endorsing Israel, the VCEA recognized his strong support of Virginia's coal and energy producing companies, as well as his support of legislation that will further diversify the economy of Southwest Virginia. "Israel's leadership of a bipartisan coalition to restore the coal tax credit for metallurgical coal will be a tremendous benefit to our industry and the state," said Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance President Harry Childress. In addition, "Israel's support of a structurally sound and balanced budget that included a 5 percent teacher pay raise, resources for increased school safety and additional K-12 funding is of vital importance to our region," noted Childress.



The VCEA also noted Israel's strong support of Virginia's tax relief plan and legislation to support middle mile broadband coverage, which will result in lower electric bills over time and save ratepayers an estimated \$150 million over the next three years. "Israel's support of a balanced budget and legislation that made key investments in needed infrastructure, education, school safety and broadband, among others, without relying on tax increases, is of vital importance to the economic well-being and the future growth of Southwest Virginia," said VCEA Chairman, J. P. Richardson. "Having seen firsthand his efforts to work for the region's economic success, and his sincere concern for the well-being of Southwest Virginia, the VCEA's Board unanimously voted to endorse his candidacy for the Virginia House of Delegates in the 5<sup>th</sup> House District," stated Richardson.

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