



Gov. Kaine Renews Environmental Push

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For the third time in as many weeks, Gov. Tim Kaine (D) on Monday pushed his environmental agenda, which includes grants, legislative action and executive orders.

This time around, Virginia pulled in a \$2.5 million water improvement grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"Even in a time of tight resources, river and bay cleanliness has become one of the most bipartisan priorities that we have in state government," Kaine said at an event in Capitol Square.



He said that's because Virginia has to make-up for past actions, "Let's just be blunt. Virginia was a laggard in making these investments for a number of years."

Just last week, the same topic brought Kaine to the site for Albemarle County's new eco-friendly wastewater treatment plant. "I went to Charlottesville so that we could shine a light on that activity," Kaine said.

That went over well with county Supervisor Sally Thomas. She said water quality is extremely important to Central Virginia.

"That affects whether you can go tubing down the Rivanna River pleasantly or not, or what you can do in that body of water," Thomas said.

Conservationists say the governor's involvement helps showcase projects -- including ones in Central Virginia -- that are doing "the right thing."

"Quite frankly, they probably would not have happened with quite as much visibility," said Leslie Middleton, executive director of the Rivanna River Basin Commission, one of the groups receiving the grants.

Kaine said we should expect to see many more environmental announcements from his office in the coming months.

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