



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

Chairman: Dereck Davis

Members: Economic Matters Committee

RE: HB 1543 Environment – Climate Crisis and Education Act

Position: Oppose

Maryland gas tax + SUTE + CPI keeps Maryland at a competitive disadvantage since 2013. June 30, 2013 state Gas tax was .2350 cents per gallon. Today it stands at .3670. The average increase is around 2 cents a year even with low inflation and gas prices steady. HB 1543 would add 9-10 cents the first year and keep going up. Diesel fuel will raise even more.

Virginia gas tax is .162 and scheduled be .212 by July. Virginia also has Northern VA, Hampton road, and the 81corridor transportation tax of 2.1% which will add .045 for a total of .257 in those locations. The Delaware gas tax .230

Maryland retailers will have no choice but put the price on the street and in their stores. Gas sellers within a reasonable driving distance of Virginia and Delaware will lose customers for sure and possibly their business

I can't speak of the cost of heating oil, propane, natural gas, and electricity but I can say this, HB1543 is a business killer. This is would be another layer of cost on businesses on top of sick leave and minimum wage in recent years.

To residents that live week to week, paycheck to paycheck and retirees on a set budget this bill will be devastating. End of the year reimbursement from the State fund won't do any good when you must decide between gas for your car & work, heat for your house or food on the table.

Please give HB1543 an unfavorable report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and independent repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net