



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 1545

DATE: March 5, 2020

SPONSOR: Delegate Barve, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters

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POSITION: SUPPORT

Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

House Bill 1545 establishes a cap on carbon dioxide emissions for the six existing electric generating stations in the State that burn coal. The bill also establishes a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account and advisory board within the Department of Commerce to provide grants for individuals and communities affected by the transition from fossil fuels and the retirement of electric generating units.

Montgomery County supports House Bill 1545. This bill requires the Dickerson coal-fired electric generating station located in Montgomery County to comply with the carbon dioxide emissions cap by October 1, 2023.

In 2017, the Montgomery County Council declared a climate emergency calling on all levels of government to “initiate a massive global mobilization to restore a safe climate and build a sustainable economy” and “transform the climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and reaching 100% elimination by 2035, and initiate large-scale efforts to remove excess carbon from the atmosphere.” Coal-fired power plants generate a significant amount of the total greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector in Maryland. This bill will assist the County in achieving its target of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions entirely.

For the foregoing reasons, Montgomery County respectfully requests a favorable Committee report on House Bill 1545.