



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1545

Electric Generation - Transition from Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

DATE: MARCH 5, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

POSITION

Chesapeake Bay Foundation SUPPORTS HB 1545 from the House Economic Matters Committee. This bill would phase out existing coal-fired power plants in Maryland and limit emissions from natural gas plants. The bill also sets up a fossil fuel transition account for affected communities and establishes an oversight board to distribute grants for worker retraining and other transitions.

COMMENTS

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released a special report strongly urging the governments to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next twelve years in order to stabilize the climate at 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels.¹

It would be impossible to reach those goals without severely curtailing greenhouse gases from all sources as quickly as possible. Maryland's reliance on coal fired power plants is unsustainable under this context and the State must act quickly to transition away from fossil fuels. HB 1545 sets up a reasonable timeline and transition plan.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions also benefits the Bay's water quality by slowing ocean acidification and the deposition of nitrogen oxides, a potent source of nitrogen pollution to the Bay.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, CBF urges a FAVORABLE report from the Committee on HB 1545. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist at 443.482.2168 or dmyers@cbf.org

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/2018/10/08/summary-for-policymakers-of-ipcc-special-report-on-global-warming-of-1-5c-approved-by-governments/>

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