



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Board of Directors

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SUPPORT HB1545: Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Dear Chairman Davis and members of the Committees:

Maryland League of Conservation Voters strongly urges your support of HB1545: Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account, and we thank Senator West for his leadership on this issue. HB1545 and its House cross-file are priorities of Maryland LCV and of the Citizen’s Campaign for the Environment (CCE), a table of 30 organizations working on statewide environmental policy.

Last year, the General Assembly showed leadership and vision in passing the Clean Energy Jobs Act, requiring 50% of our state’s energy to be derived from renewable energy sources by the year 2030. Your actions last year were important, and bold, and set our state on the path to the forefront of climate policy nationwide. We are all grateful for your work. This year there are several ambitious bills being presented that would make our state a leader in climate legislation. HB1545 is one of these important legislative actions, recognizing that as we elevate the clean energy technologies of wind and solar, we must also move away from dirty energy sources, including coal.

The health and environmental imperatives of this bill are clear: 88% of Marylanders live in counties unable to meet the clean air standards set by the EPA, leading to significant negative health impacts, especially in communities of color. Additionally, the six remaining coal-fired power plants are the second leading source of Maryland’s in-state climate pollution. If we are to do our part in addressing the climate crisis, and protecting the health of our communities, we must close our last remaining coal-burning plants.

The imperative, however, also lies in ensuring that the workers and communities that rely on the jobs these plants provide are protected against the economic devastation of plant closings without an adequate and just transition. This is why HB1545 creates a worker and community transition fund to help transition current union workers with good, family supporting jobs into new, good, family sustaining jobs. This is an essential component to the success of this bill.

Maryland LCV strongly supports this important legislation and urges a favorable report.