



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

SUPPORT

HB 708

Comprehensive Climate Solutions

Economic Matters Committee

3/04/2022

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, members of the Economic Matters Committee, my name is Rev. Linda Boyd and I submit this testimony on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. The Maryland diocese represents 110 parishes and over 45,000 parishioners. The Episcopal Diocese of MD supports HB 708.

We believe that God calls us to care for creation and to support policies that promote a healthy environment. This Bill recommends that Maryland achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The bill will also require a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2032. These and other measures proposed by this Bill take considerable steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions and thereby providing a healthy environment for all Marylanders, and toward protecting God's creation, planet Earth. Ensuring healthy communities expresses our love for our neighbors and helps to promote a world in which all individuals in Maryland can live and flourish.

The Episcopal Church calls for policies that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable energy, the safe and just use of natural resources, and supports communities impacted by a lack of environmental stewardship. Communities of color bear a disproportionate risk of environmental pollution or degradation. We advocate for and support policies that protect these populations and the sanctity of communities. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality aligns with the broader environmental equity and social justice goals around Creation Care supported and encouraged by the Episcopal Church.

We encourage a favorable report.