



Committee: Finance

Testimony on: SB135 - Climate Crisis & Environmental Justice Act

Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 15, 2022

Dear M. Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB135. This bill sets a target of reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions 100% by 2040 (with interim targets) and imposes two types of polluter, non-pass through, fossil-fuel fees: 1) a Building Heat fee; and 2) a transportation fuel fee.

Further, using the revenue generated through the polluter fees, the bill creates two funds:

- 1) The Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund that: a) invests in initiatives to improve the health and welfare of Marylanders, 50% of which shall be invested in projects that are directly located within and provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice communities; and b) up to 5% of the monies shall be to provide technical assistance, capacity, and planning tools to county and municipal governments for mitigation and resilience projects; and
- 2) Climate Crisis Benefits that a) receives 50% of the revenue from the polluter fees; and b) helps low and moderate income households and energy intensive trade-exposed businesses to protect them from financial harm.

SB135 thus holds polluters responsible for the damage they have caused and provides protection for our most vulnerable families and communities and for all Marylanders.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

MLC Climate Justice Wing:

Assateague Coastal Trust
Maryland Legislative Coalition
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
WISE
Frack Free Frostburg
Mountain Maryland Movement

Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Columbia Association Climate change and sustainability advisory committee
CHEER
Climate XChange - Maryland
Mid-Atlantic Field Representative/
National Parks Conservation Association
350 Montgomery County
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Audubon Naturalist Society
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
Environmental Justice Ministry
Coalition For Smarter Growth
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MoCo DCC
Potomac Conservancy
Casa de Maryland
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Clean Air Prince Georges
Laurel Resist
Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Climate Law & Policy Project
Maryland Poor Peoples Campaign
Labor for Sustainability
The Nature Conservancy
Clean Air Prince Georges
350 Baltimore
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Talbot Rising
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Echotopia
Maryland NAACP State Conference,
Environmental Justice Committee