



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

## SUPPORT

### SB 135

#### Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

2/15/2022

Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs 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 SB 135.

We believe that God calls us to care for creation and to support policies that promote a healthy environment. The measures proposed by this Bill take considerable steps toward 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. 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.