



TESTIMONY FOR HB0493
Department of Commerce - Office of Climate Change Assistance for Small
Businesses - Establishment

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Ruth

Committee: Ways and Means

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0493 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state. We have over 30,000 members across the state.

The single biggest crisis in our lifetimes is the climate crisis that we are facing. It will take a tremendous effort to move quickly to an economy that is not based on fossil fuels. Many profitable businesses will simply no longer be necessary. And those are the very businesses that will fight the transition the hardest and put the rest of our economy and our lives on the line to hold on to their profits.

We all recognize this problem. It is no one's intention to have businesses fail and have people without jobs. But the transition MUST happen quickly and we MUST find a way to help those businesses that would otherwise fail to reinvent themselves in the new fossil free economy.

This bill will help make that happen. It will create the Office of Climate Change Assistance for Small Businesses to help small business owners identify and apply for programs that will help them transition their workforce and their products and services to work in a greener economy. This will ensure that people will have jobs and skills that are useful and will help business owners find a new niche in our green economy. This is just what we need.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.