

HB0493 Office of Climate Change Assistance FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



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.

HB 493 testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Kirk McCauley

Position: FAV



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

February 16, 2023

Chair: Vanessa Atterbearry
Members of Ways and Means Committee

RE: HB 493 – Department of Commerce - Office of Climate Change Assistance
for Small Business – Establishment

Position: In Favor

HB493 will have a meaningful impact on small businesses that feel overwhelmed looking into the future and planning for their business . They do not have the resources to navigate through changes to regulation, rebates, costs or any financial assistance that might be available in the transition to clean energy.

Please give Hb493 a Favorable Report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net

HB0493 Office of Climate Change Assistance_Ways &

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



Committee: Ways and Means
Testimony on: HB0493 - Department of Commerce - Office of Climate Change Assistance for Small Businesses – Establishment
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 16, 2022

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB493. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB493.

HB493 will establish an Office of Climate Change Assistance for Small Businesses (Office) in the Department of Commerce to assist small businesses with transitioning to advanced clean energy and increasing their climate resilience to threats like flooding, extreme heat, and severe storms. Advanced clean energy systems may include a variety of sources from solar, geothermal, and wind to energy efficiency and conservation to more innovative technologies.

Maryland small businesses are critical to the State’s economic vitality. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, 99.5% of all businesses in Maryland are small businesses and they employ 1.2 million people or 49.3% of all employees in the State. In 2019, small firms in Maryland exported goods worth \$3.7 billion.

By their very nature, small businesses (i.e., ventures with potentially less capacity and capital) may have a harder time finding and applying for federal, state, or local government financial assistance, and incorporating advanced clean technologies and climate resilience strategies into their business plans. The Office, established under HB493, will provide guidance and other assistance to small businesses to help overcome these challenges.

Ensuring that Maryland small businesses are prepared for climate risks and can take advantage of advanced clean energy opportunities is essential for the current and future health and growth of Maryland small businesses. Therefore, we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report for HB493 in committee.