



Testimony Supporting HB0836

Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024

House Appropriations Committee

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Barnes and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sonia Demiray, I am the co-founder of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition, and a resident of Frederick County. Our group wholeheartedly endorses the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2024.

We know that transportation is Maryland's biggest source of climate pollution, and must be addressed to meet the state's goal of reducing emissions 60% by 2031. The Transportation and Climate Alignment (TCA) Act of 2024 will ensure that future transportation projects align with the stated goals of reducing GHG emissions by expanding clean transportation options by:

- This bill is key in that it requires mitigation actions such as improving and expanding public transit, creating protected bike infrastructure, expanding broadband access, and locating jobs and amenities near where people live and near transit to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by Marylanders. Currently many of us are stuck in traffic for hours each week. This bill would start mitigating this polluting waste of time and modernize our infrastructure.
- The bill requires that transportation agencies assess whether a planned project is in compliance with the state's climate targets and goals to reduce vehicle traffic for highway expansion projects that cost over \$10 million.
- Protect our environment and our health, save commuters money, and expand efficient transportation options.
- This bill would help comply with the Federal Highway Administration's new greenhouse gas performance standards which require state and regional transportation agencies to set goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

All in all, this bill is key to bringing down our emissions and to accelerate a much needed start multi-modal, modern transit system in Maryland. It will save Marylanders money and time in addition to improving our environment and public health. Please vote favorably on HB0836.

Thank you.

###