



Testimony to the House Environment and Transportation Committee
HB1008 Climate Pollution Reduction Fund Act
Position: Favorable

2/28/2024

The Honorable Delegate Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

CC: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee

Economic Action Maryland (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a people-centered movement to expand economic rights, housing justice, and community reinvestment for working families, low-income communities, and communities of color. Economic Action Maryland provides direct assistance today while passing legislation and regulations to create systemic change in the future.

I am writing to urge your favorable report on HB1008, which proposes the imposition of a fossil fuel transportation fee in the State. We believe that this legislation represents a significant step towards achieving economic justice, environmental sustainability, and consumer protection.

At the core of our support for this bill is the recognition that addressing the challenges of climate change necessitates bold and innovative measures. The imposition of a fossil fuel transportation fee, as outlined in HB1008, would internalize the external costs associated with carbon emissions and incentivize the transition towards cleaner, more sustainable energy alternatives.

The proposed rate of 30 cents per million British thermal units of fossil fuels transported in the State is a reasonable and effective means to encourage responsible energy consumption and discourage excessive reliance on environmentally harmful practices. This fee structure appropriately reflects the true environmental impact of fossil fuel transportation, thereby promoting accountability within the industry.

As climate change disparately impacts low income communities,¹ it is vital that we prioritize a shift to renewable energy as quickly and efficiently as possible and attack this problem from multiple angles. Thus, this legislation not only addresses the urgent environmental concerns associated with fossil fuel usage but also lays the foundation for a fair and sustainable economic future.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,
Zoe Gallagher, Policy Associate

¹<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-report-shows-disproportionate-impacts-climate-change-socially-vulnerable>