



February 8, 2024

Kim Coble
Executive Director

2024 Board of
Directors

SUPPORT: HB455 - Comptroller - Electronic Tax and Fee Return Filing Requirements

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Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV Supports HB455 (Comptroller - Electronic Tax and Fee Return Filing Requirements) and we thank Comptroller Lierman for her leadership on this issue.

As Maryland looks to reduce its carbon emissions and contribution to the impacts of climate change, it is critical to examine the systems and structures that lead to pollution, either directly or indirectly. Through this legislation, the Comptroller's office has identified the significant amounts of paper mail that they receive each year, which contributes both to the paper waste stream, and the emissions and cost necessary to transport the mail to their headquarters. In the emblematic cycle of personal environmental activity, "Reduce - Reuse - Recycle," it is notable that "reduce" is always the first step. This bill takes a step in that direction by moving to more universal electronic filing for state taxes.

Importantly, this legislation does consider economic justice, as well as environmental policy, in its crafting. By requiring electronic filing for only income levels above \$200,000 for individuals and \$400,000 for couples, it ensures that low and moderate income taxpayers, who may not have access to a personal computer or reliable internet, will not face additional hurdles. Additionally, the Comptroller's office has considered the importance of making the online portal accessible to multiple languages.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this important bill.