

**Committee: Appropriations**

**Testimony on: HB0437 – Transportation - Major Highway Capacity Expansion Projects and Impact Assessments (Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026)**

**Submitted by: Donald M. Goldberg, Executive Director**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: February 10, 2026**

Dear Chairman and Co-chair:

Climate Law & Policy Project (CLPP) is a Maryland-based nonprofit research organization that works to develop and promote sound and safe policies to slow, stop, and ultimately reverse the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and ensure that vulnerable communities are protected from climate impacts that cannot be avoided. As transportation is the main source of climate pollution in Maryland, CLPP supports HB0437.

Maryland has strong statutory climate pollution reduction targets, and it has developed a Climate Pollution Reduction Plan to help achieve those targets. HB0437 would simply align the state's transportation investments and projects with the state's climate objectives and require major highway expansion projects, which increase pollution, to have an accompanying portfolio of offsetting clean transportation options, including public transit, walking, and biking infrastructure, particularly in overburdened and underserved communities. In addition to greenhouse gas emissions from the state's transportation sector declining over time, such measures will also bring considerable health benefits and consumer savings.

This is a common-sense bill to bring health and economic benefits to Marylanders and to make sure that the state's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions is addressed.

CLPP respectfully urges a favorable report on this bill.