



**Testimony in support of HB437 Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of  
2026**

**FAVORABLE**

**TO: House Appropriations Committee**

**FROM: The Rev. Steve Holt, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy  
Network (MEPPN)**

**DATE: February 10, 2026**

**Dear Honorable Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and Members of the  
Committee,**

**The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network offers favorable testimony in  
support of HB437 Transportation and Climate Alignment Act of 2026.  
Transportation is the largest source of climate pollution in Maryland, and  
residential neighborhoods located near major roads and highways - more  
frequently communities of color - bear a disproportionate amount of the  
burden from this pollution. It is also the second largest expense for most  
Americans after housing, creating a significant financial burden for households  
with lower incomes. When the state plans new capacity expansion projects, it  
is important that we make sure we understand what impacts these projects are  
having on the climate, our public health, and the affordability of  
transportation.**

**The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act would help us achieve all of  
those goals by creating more accountability and transparency in our  
Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). The bill would require MDOT  
to evaluate the climate pollution from all major capital projects in the budget  
and develop additional clean transportation projects, if necessary, to align the  
budget with the state's targets to cut climate pollution. The legislation would  
also encourage more affordable transportation options by requiring that new  
highway expansion projects over \$100 million offset their pollution by funding  
public transit, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and other alternative**

*The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of The Episcopal Diocese  
of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA*



transportation options, with a priority for overburdened and underserved communities.

As representatives of faith communities across Maryland, it is important to us that our transportation planning takes into account the effect on future generations, as we seek to care for our planet and its climate. It is also important that we fully consider the impact of our actions on those who have been left out of transportation decisions, and as a result, have dealt with the negative consequences of pollution in their communities and a lack of affordability in their transportation options. The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act would ensure that we include those considerations in our Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP), and as such, we urge you to support its passage.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) requests a **FAVORABLE** report