



**HB1545– Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide
Emissions Rate and Transition Account
Testimony before House Environment & Transportation Committee
March 5, 2020
Position: Favorable**

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Fixsen and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in ***strong support of HB1545*** which would set an end-date for phasing out coal-fired power in Maryland, and simultaneously protect the workers and communities facing job loss and displacement as we move off fossil fuels like coal. We are a member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (30,000+ members), and HB1545 is a high priority for MLC.

Fossil fuels such as coal, which emit carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, are a large cause of climate change, which poses a dire threat to our economy and our health. It's time to move away from fossil fuels and transition to clean renewable energy (1).

A recent poll shows that 70% of Marylanders, including majorities in both political parties, favor transitioning off dirty coal and providing economic support to coal plant workers and their communities (2).

Across the country, more than 300 coal-fired power plants have closed or announced retirement plans, but our state still has six plants polluting our air, water, and climate. Coal plants in Maryland generate less than 14% of our electricity, but they are the cause of 75% of our climate pollution from in-state power plants. We simply cannot continue to operate old, polluting coal-fired power plants if we want to meet climate action goals and clean our air and water (3).

For this reason, we respectfully ask you to support HB1545

We urge a favorable report.

¹Union of Concerned Scientists (July 9, 2019). Coal Power Impacts. Union of Concerned Scientists.

<https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/coal-power-impacts>

¹ Kurtz, J. (Nov. 20, 2019) Poll Shows Strong Support for Phasing Out Coal Plants as Barve Readies Bill. Maryland Matters. <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2019/11/20/poll-shows-strong-support-for-phasing-out-coal-plants-as-barve-readies-bill/>

¹ DiSavino, S. (Jan. 23,2020), U.S. coal-fired power plants closing fast despite Trump's pledge of support for industry. Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-coal-decline-graphic/u-s-coal-fired-power-plants-closing-fast-despite-trumps-pledge-of-support-for-industry-idUSKBN1ZC15A>