

## **HB1545 - Lucy Duff - FAV**

**Committee: House Economic Matters Committee**

**Testimony on: HB1545 - Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 5, 2020**

A bill like this one, to phase out coal plants while preparing their workers and communities for different lines of work, strikes me as very well-balanced; it offers a chance to improve the environment for all of us, yet also recognize the just claims of those whose health was likely harmed in the fossil fuel industry, and whose economic welfare would be harmed by the widespread shift to non-carbon energy..

The program it proposes would have been of great value back in the 1970s to coal industry workers who lost their jobs in West Virginia, where I grew up and took my first full-time job. There I met unemployed miners, some of whom had contracted black lung disease, who could find very few alternative jobs for which their training and experience qualified them.

Let us make sure that Maryland moves expeditiously to the clean energy that a strong response to climate change requires- but also let us ensure that workers thereby losing jobs get the income support and retraining that a just transition calls for.

Lucy Duff- 9210 Fowler Lane, Lanham MD 20706

lucyduff@comcast.net