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BILL NO.: SB 887

TITLE: Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

SPONSOR: Senator West

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 25, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 887 – Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account. This bill would prohibit the carbon dioxide emissions rate for Maryland’s coal-fired power plants from exceeding a certain amount and establish the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account to provide grants to affected communities.

There are few issues more pressing than climate change. Maryland must take bold steps to address this existential threat, including reassessing how its energy is generated. Coal plants are the second biggest in-state source of emissions from the power sector, generating over 75% of climate pollution from in-state generators. The devastating health effects of these emissions are well documented, and Baltimore County residents regularly experience smog from coal plants well outside of our borders.

Additionally, coal has become an economically unsustainable energy source. It is critical that Maryland develop a plan to purposefully transition to cleaner energy sources while ensuring impacted workers and communities are not left behind. SB 887 includes significant provisions to ensure affected workers are supported as they transition to jobs in clean energy and other emerging sectors.

Baltimore County urges the State to address climate change while supporting affected communities. SB 887 will help accomplish this goal and create a healthier, more sustainable future.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 887. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.