

TESTIMONY ON SB 887
Position: FAVORABLE
February 25, 2020
Senate Finance Committee

Chairwoman Delores Kelly and Members of the Committee:

I write as a member of Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home to implore you to pass SB0887, a bill that will come before your committee tomorrow for a hearing.

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis states that “technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels – especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas – needs to be progressively replaced without delay.” Coal plants are a leading contributor of smog-forming nitrogen oxide pollution, which threatens human health. Over 85% of Marylanders live in counties that are in non-attainment for federal clean air standards for smog. That number increases to over 90% for African American and Hispanic Communities, which raise concerns about equity and the treatment of vulnerable populations. The provisions for community transition are responsive to Catholic principles of solidarity and concern for workers.

I hope you will do whatever you can to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

J. Stephen Cleghorn
Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home
& *St. Matthew Catholic Church Green Team* (Baltimore)