



February 18, 2020

SUPPORT: HB919 Coal – Tax Credits and Exemption – Repeal

Dear Madame Chair and members of the Committee:

The above organizations strongly support HB919 and thank Delegate Moon for his leadership on this issue.

Facing a global climate emergency, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made recommendations on the drastic structural changes needed to be taken to avoid the most devastating impacts of climate change. One of their key recommendations is to rapidly move away from energy produced by coal fired power plants and towards cleaner technologies. In addition to being one of the most vulnerable states in the country to the effects of sea level rise caused by climate change, Maryland continues to have some of the highest smog levels in the Eastern United States, with five million residents living in areas that have been designated as having unhealthy levels of smog (out of the total population of just over six million people).

The General Assembly has made great strides to confront climate change and improve our poor air quality by passing legislation to drive our economy away from pollution-emitting fossil fuels and towards solar and wind energy. This year there are still more proposals for ambitious and achievable legislation to make Maryland a national leader in climate policy. Repealing the tax credit for coal is a simple, but meaningful step in this direction. By repealing the tax credit and thereby subsidizing energy from polluting sources does not protect the health of Marylanders, is counter to the significant strides Maryland is making to fight climate change and is not a smart economic action.

We strongly urge this Committee to continue moving Maryland in the right direction of clean, renewable, sustainable energy policy by issuing a favorable report on HB919.

Thank you for your consideration.