



TESTIMONY FOR HB0066

ELECTRIC GENERATION – TRANSITION FROM FOSSIL FUELS – CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS RATE AND TRANSITION PLAN AND FUND (MARYLAND COAL COMMUNITY TRANSITION ACT OF 2021)

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Brooks

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0066 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members are very conscious of the effects of climate change, and how it impacts our lives and our future. We are frustrated by how long it takes to rid ourselves of fossil fuel infrastructure and we are anxious to move forward with clean energy. We want to do our part in getting to net zero emissions as quickly as possible.

However, we also recognize that many of the solutions that have been contemplated to rid ourselves of fossil fuel infrastructure do not take into account what effect closing down that infrastructure will have on workers. This bill acknowledges that effect and sets aside funds to help workers transition.

We desperately need to close down coal-fired power plants as quickly as possible. They produce some of the worst greenhouse gas emissions and are toxic for the environment and for anyone unfortunate enough to live nearby. We also should do everything we can to keep our workforce productive by retraining them in new and cleaner technologies.

This bill provides a path to a better future. We embrace the concept of a just transition – one that helps workers stay productive by allowing them to transition to other jobs as we close down industries that are no longer viable.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

