

Committee: Economic Matters Testimony on: HB 613 -Prince George's County – Coal– and Gas–Fired Generating Stations – Prohibitions (Prince George's County Stop Environmentally Unjust Coal and Gas Plants Act of 2021) Organization: Greenbelt Climate Action Network Person Submitting: Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator Position: Favorable Hearing Date: February 25, 2021

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee,

The **Greenbelt Climate Action Network supports HB 613** -Prince George's County – Coaland Gas–Fired Generating Stations – Prohibitions (Prince George's County Stop Environmentally Unjust Coal and Gas Plants Act of 2021) sponsored by Delegate Ivey. GCAN educates residents about climate change and steps they can take to live more sustainably. We welcomed the encouraging news that 95% of Maryland's coal power plant capacity has been deactivated or announced for retirement in the coming years, including at Chalk Point. But we need our leaders to take further and swift action to stop future fossil fuel threats to the health of our communities, and beyond.

Prince George's County already has illegally high and unhealthy levels of ground level ozone. Covid 19's disproportionate impact on black and brown communities highlights racial health inequalities that ring true in our energy systems as well. **Race is the #1 indicator for placement of toxic facilities in this country (BayNet.com).** Brandywine, MD has 4 fracked gas power plants within a 13 mile radius. We cannot allow additional dirty fracked gas power plants to add to the existing list of adverse health outcomes.

Prince George's County is developing a Climate Action Plan. If we construct another fracked gas power plant, we're heading in the wrong direction. We'll be stuck with these GHG emitting pipeline and power plants for years to come, and that is not acceptable. **Please support HB 613.**

Thank you,

Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator Greenbelt Climate Action Network