

Jonathan Lacock-Nisly, Director of Faithful Advocacy
January 29, 2021

Testimony on SB 0148 –
SB 0148: Coal Community Transition Act
Finance Committee

Position: Favorable

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) supports SB 0148.

Congregations of many faith traditions all across our state are lighting the way to a coal free Maryland and a just transition for plant workers and their communities. Artist Caryl Henry Alexander, of Clinton, MD, designed the below piece to show the support of faith communities for this legislation. People of faith took pictures with the artwork in December with their Advent candles, Hanukkah candles, solstice lights, and more.

Take a second to look through these pictures, and join our faith communities in imagining the possibilities that a coal free Maryland and a just transition would offer for our health, our climate, and our shared Creation.



Caryl Henry Alexander of Clinton, MD poses with her artwork.



At left, Jakir Manela, Chief Executive Officer of the Pearlstone Center in Reisterstown, MD, and Nets Manela with their children

At right, Merikay Smith of the Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints Kensington Ward, at her home in Germantown, MD, with her home grown Christmas tree



Kori Majeed of Masjid Muhammad in front of her solar powered home in Cheverly, MD



Joan Plisko, Community Sustainability Director of the Pearlstone Center in Reistertown, MD, and attendee of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, with her menorah

Joelle Novey, Director of IPL-DMV, and Caryl Henry Alexander of Clinton, MD



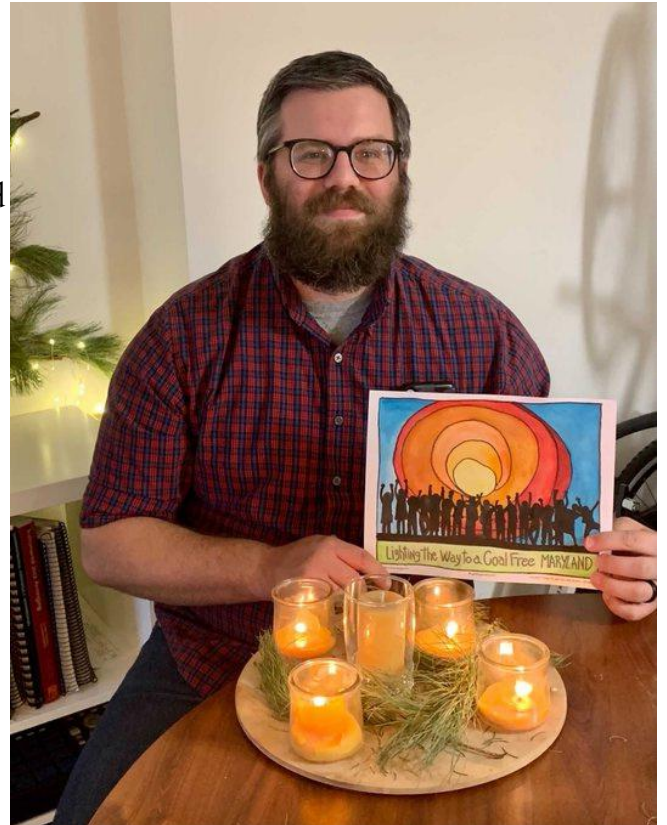


At left, Evonne Marzouk of Kemp Mill Synagogue in Silver Spring, MD



At right, a young supporter in St. Mary's County, MD lighting the way to a coal free Maryland

At right, Dustin Long of Silver Spring United Methodist Church with his Advent wreath



At left, Sherie Koob of Middletown United Methodist Church with her Christmas tree



Deacon Laura Heller, leader of the Del-Md Synod ELCA Creation Care Team, and Lutheran lay leaders from across the state are lighting the way to a coal free Maryland





Elie, age 6, decorates his "Lighting the Way" artwork and poses with his menorah in Silver Spring, MD



Maryland members of the 8th Day Faith Community hold up Advent candles in lighting the way to a coal free Maryland

Volunteers with Avodah, the Jewish service corps, lighting the way to a coal free Maryland





Andrew Gohn of Tikkun Leil Shabbat in Silver Spring, MD and his daughter pose with their menorah



Laura File Long of Sliver Spring United Methodist Church with her Christmas tree



Mike Koob of Middletown United Methodist Church with his Christmas tree



Members of the Jewish Climate Action Network DMV are lighting the way to a coal free Maryland. In this photo, they lift up plants in celebration of Tu BiShvat, the new year of the trees.

Last year, Maryland faith communities delivered the message that six coal fired power plants were six too many, posing with signs to show support for the previous iteration of the Coal Community Transition Act.

Below, you can see those pictures from early 2020 offered in support of last year's bill.

The pandemic ended the General Assembly before action could be taken on that legislation, but in the time since, one of those plants has closed and another four have announced plans to do so. As people of faith, we care for both our neighbors with asthma, exacerbated by coal pollution, and our neighbors who work at the coal plants. These workers and their communities cannot be left to the whims of the market.

For all of our neighbors, we urge the committee to give SB 0148 a favorable report.

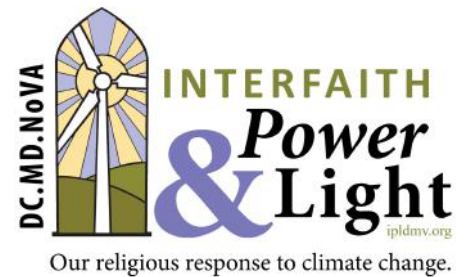
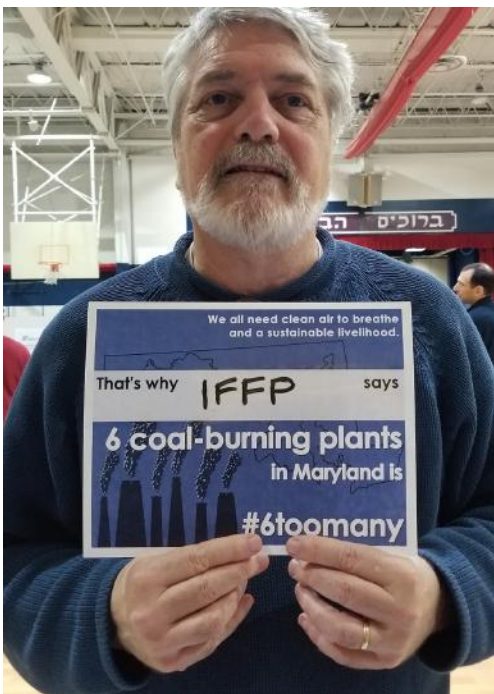
Jonathan Lacock-Nisly
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
In support of HB 1545
March 5, 2020

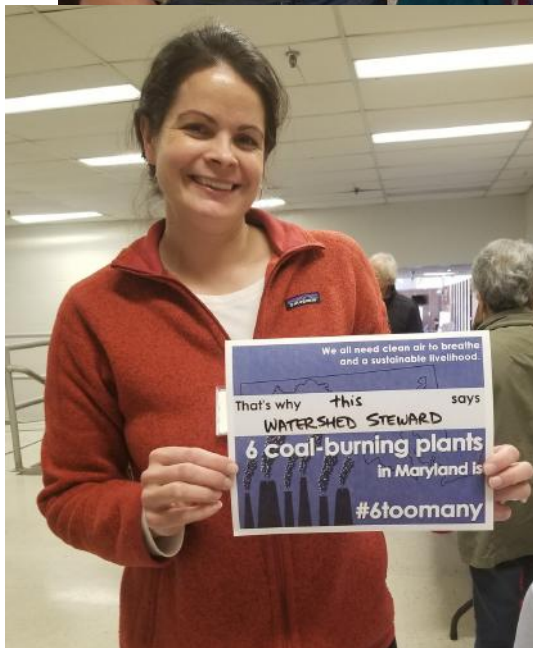


Maryland's Faith Communities Speak Out for a COAL COMMUNITY TRANSITION

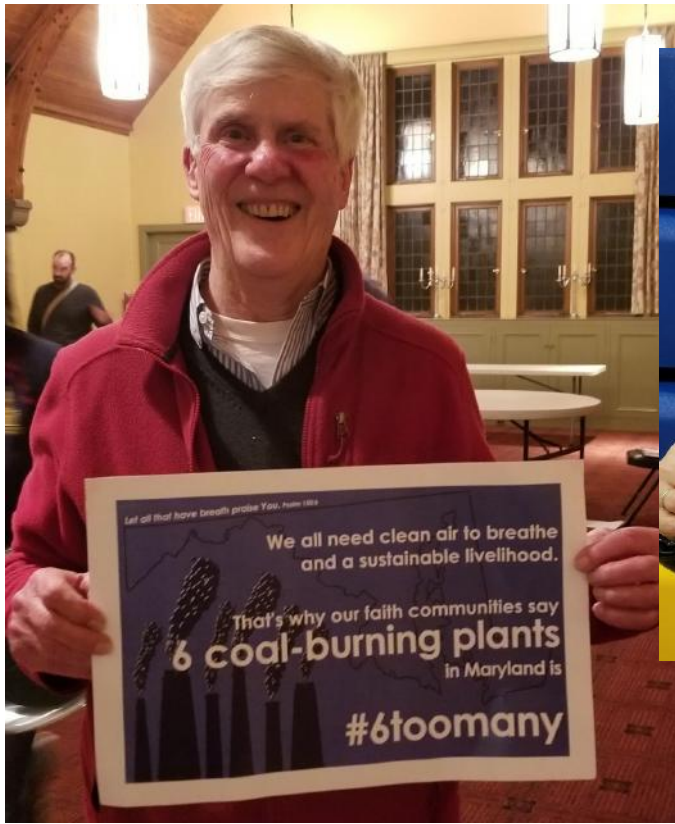


Communities of many faiths across the state, from Rockville to Annapolis and Frederick to Towson, including Bishop Eugene Sutton and members of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (above), support a just transition off of coal.









#6toomany



