



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice Chair
Finance Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

DATE: February 2, 2021

RE: SB148 Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)

The MLLC supports SB148 Electric Generation – Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021).

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of SB0148.

Coal plants are no longer viable energy options. They cost our health, environment, and if not ended soon, our futures. Coal plants are large emitters of mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas. Along with contributing to climate change, pollution from coal plants is linked to asthma, heart problems, and other chronic diseases.

Marginalized communities bear most of the health burden from coal-burning power plants. In a joint [report](#) by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, and the Indigenous Environmental Network, they stated that families who live near coal plants are disproportionately low-income and people of color. In Maryland, an [estimated 85%](#) of residents live in counties that do not meet EPA healthy air standards for smog pollution and our coal plants are a primary source of our smog pollution. This pollution is a leading cause for asthma, which disproportionately impacts our communities of color and our children. It is imperative that we phase out our coal plants before it is too late for our futures and next generations.

SB148 mandates and manages the necessary transition off coal power in Maryland by 2030. This bill also creates a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund and a Fossil Fuel Transition Advisory Council to mitigate economic impacts for employees. Coal plants have done enough damage and harm to our lives. It is time to take the required action for the well-being of all Marylanders.

The MLLC supports this bill and urges a favorable report on SB148.