

Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act -

HB0171 Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act - Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo - Hearing on March 10th

This bill strikes a very good balance between aggressive climate policy that will help us achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and supporting those communities that have been most impacted by the dirty energy policies that we are trying to leave behind. It also takes a somewhat poetic approach in making the very entities who have become rich by flooding our state with fossil fuels to fund our transition to clean energy.

The bill places a fee on fossil fuel products coming into the state and cleverly prohibits the entities who must pay the fee to then turn around and pass the fee on to consumers. The fee will escalate over time to drive home the point that fossil fuels are not our future and that companies supporting that industry should abandon it as soon as possible.

The monies that are collected from the carbon fee will then be used to fund green infrastructure projects and provide support to low-income households and energy intensive trade exposed businesses affected by the change to cleaner energy sources. The funds will also be directed towards municipalities with environmental justice populations.

Our Revolution Howard County, Maryland encourages support for and passage of this legislation without amendment.

Submitted by David LeGrande, Vice-Chair
Our Revolution Howard County, Maryland