



HoCoClimateAction.org
Howard County, Maryland

Testimony on HB1366

HB1366 - Zero-Emission Energy Resources and Carbon Capture, Use, and Sequestration – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Study

Hearing Date: March 19 2022

Bill Sponsor: Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Maryland Energy Administration)

Submitting: Ruth White for Howard County Climate Action

Position: Unfavorable

[HoCo Climate Action](#) – is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing more than 1,450 subscribers, and a member of [the Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). HoCoClimateAction **opposes** HB1366- Zero-Emission Energy Resources and Carbon Capture, Use, and Sequestration – Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Study

The IPCC challenges the world to reduce greenhouse emissions rapidly to avoid even more catastrophic effects of the climate crisis. An IPCC report released on Tuesday, Feb 28 confirms how little time we have to act. [New York Times](#) reports: Current efforts are too often “incremental.” Instead we will need “**‘transformational’ changes that involve rethinking how people** build homes, grow food, **produce energy** and protect nature.”

There are many major bills we are supporting this year that offer real climate solutions for greenhouse gas reductions, , starting with the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 SB528 and the similar bills in the House, HB708, HB831 and HB806. But while Maryland state legislators are working on passing legislation to reduce greenhouse gases, Governor Hogan's administration just introduced a bill that would help keep fossil fuel power plants open for decades.

We oppose false climate solutions like carbon capture and sequestration (HB1366) that will only exacerbate the climate crisis. Carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) is a new, unproven technology aiming to capture and store emissions from the smokestacks of power plants. The oil and gas industry is promoting it because it would help keep fossil fuel power plants open way beyond their life cycle.

But the technology is extremely expensive and has not been proven to work. On top of that, if all power plants used CCS, they would actually need nearly 40% more gas and coal to operate, meaning more fracking, more pipelines, and more fossil fuel infrastructure. That's the opposite of climate action.

This bill would give carbon capture, use, and sequestration Tier 1 status under the Renewable Portfolio Standard for the purposes of a study lead by the Maryland Energy Administration, in consultation with the Public Service Commission, the Department of the Environment, and the Department of Natural Resources. This is an inappropriate use of Maryland government officials staff time. Industry has conducted studies of carbon capture and storage to promote continuing use of polluting fuel sources

and has not yet proven this is a credible path forward to clean energy. The State of Maryland should not be using its own resources on this.

We are appalled that this bill would add such an unproven and polluting technology to our RPS. We instead support removing all polluting forms of energy from the RPS, which is what HB11 will do if passed.

For all the reasons stated above, Howard County Climate Action urges an **unfavorable** vote from the committee.

HoCo Climate Action

Submitted by Ruth White and Liz Feighner, Howard County, MD
Steering and Advocacy Committee

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