



TESTIMONY FOR HB0835
Retail Service Stations – New Construction – Setbacks and Electric Charging Stations

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Ruth

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am offering this testimony in strong support of HB0835 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

In a day where we all recognize that fossil fuels are destroying our world and poisoning our children, why are the very companies who say they are investing billions in clean energy building new, gigantic gas stations. There are two new ones in Frederick, on the same block as the old ones, and neither one has a single electric vehicle charging station. This is just wrong.

This bill will require those gas stations to have electric charging stations and requires them to be set back at least 1,000 from churches, schools and other places where they should not be located. This bill is important because local jurisdictions only see the revenue part of the picture and are disinclined from protecting their residents from this obscene attempt to continue our reliance on fossil fuels.

The Maryland Legislative Coalition strongly supports this bill and we recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.