3/8/2022
Testimony Opposing HB1366
House Economic Matters Committee
Stephanie Compton
2936 Wyman Pkwy
Baltimore, MD 21211

Position: OPPOSE

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Maryland, I urge you to oppose Governor Hogan's bill (HB1366) that would add power generating stations using carbon sequestration as a Tier-1 option in Maryland's already dirty Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

The United Nations IPCC climate report released last week warned that severe food and water shortages may await us if we don't take action on the climate crisis and transition off of fossil fuels immediately.

As state legislators work on plans to reduce Maryland's carbon emissions, Governor Hogan's plan to put carbon sequestration tech on top of smokestacks and call it "renewable" energy threatens to pull us in the wrong direction. In fact, it would only allow fossil gas and biomass power plants to remain in operation for decades longer. Carbon sequestration is an extremely expensive technology that has not proven to work and will prop up polluting energy sources.

- Despite billions in public support, CCS technology has not met deployment expectations. An examination of CCS projects reveals extensive delays, cost overruns and cancellations. Once built, CCS can't compete with other energy sources without ratepayer or taxpayer bailouts.
- Putting CCS on the government or ratepayer tab would be an expensive bailout for dirty energy producers. If successfully deployed by utilities, carbon capture technologies would increase generating costs by up to 80 percent.
- While renewable energy technologies can virtually eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from electricity, equipping coal- and natural gas-fired plants with CCS would only reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 39 percent.
- If all power plants used CCS, they would burn 39 percent more natural gas and 43 percent more coal, thereby exacerbating air and water pollution impacts, which fall disproportionately on lower income people and communities of color. • Large quantities of captured CO2 create a new dirty infrastructure footprint. Unproven schemes that store CO2 mean more groundwater contamination, air pollution and earthquakes.
- A buildout of CCS infrastructure could propel pipeline companies into a pipeline building bonanza. Like natural gas pipelines, CO2 leaks are likely to occur in every stage of the CCS network — from EOR wells to pipelines to compressor stations to power plants and their storage facilities.

- CCS infrastructure poses numerous health and safety risks because carbon is prone to leakage during transport, injection and long-term storage.142 Concentrated CO2 is denser than air, and exposure to concentrations higher than 10 percent is potentially fatal.

Maryland needs to transition off of combustion-based energy sources and move rapidly to real renewables like solar, wind, and geothermal. **I urge you to oppose HB1366** and ensure that policies encouraging the use of carbon sequestration are not included in any climate legislation considered by the General Assembly.