



# Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

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March 10, 2022

To: House Economic Matters Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Opposition of HB171 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony opposing HB 171. This bill starts out by requiring the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through various measures, including altering statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements so that the state has reduced by 60% by 2030 and then after 2040 statewide greenhouse gas emissions are net negative. It requires the Department of the Environment to adopt a plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by December 31, 2022. The bill establishes a Climate Crisis Council to develop a plan to meet the reduction targets set out in the Act. Lastly and most importantly, the bill establishes a greenhouse gas pollution fee on transportation and non-transportation petroleum-based fuels. The fees start at \$15/ton of carbon dioxide equivalent and ramps up to \$60/ton by 2032 for non-transportation fuels and is \$10/ton and ramps up to \$37/ton by 2032 for transportation fuels. This bill requires the added cost can't be passed through directly to the end user.

Even though this bill says that the added cost can't be passed down to the consumer, that seems highly unlikely with such fluctuation in gas prices now. This will drive up the cost of production for farmers as there are no viable alternatives to diesel tractors in the near future. The inability to garner a higher price for commodities sold, ensures that this increase in the cost of production will cause the farmer to make even less money on their crops as before. To add this to an already uncertain market and weather pattern, will undoubtedly cause farmers to go out of business.

**MDFB Policy:** We oppose the creation of a state carbon and/or Greenhouse Gas reduction tax/fee.

**MARYLAND FARM BUREAU RESPECTFULLY OPPOSES HB 171**

Colby Ferguson  
Director of Government Relations

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