



PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

P.O. Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792
www.ProgressiveMaryland.org
Contact@ProgressiveMaryland.org
Facebook.com/ProgressiveMaryland
@Progressive_MD

Testimony on Maryland House Bill 171: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

TO: Chair Wilson and Members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Yves Brady, Lead Organizer for the Progressive Maryland Environmental Justice Campaign,
Clinton, Maryland, District 25
DATE: March 10, 2022
POSITION: SUPPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB0171. Progressive Maryland is a grassroots, nonprofit organization with 9 chapters from Frederick to the Lower Shore and more than 100,000 members and supporters who live in nearly every legislative district in the state. In addition, there are dozens of affiliated community, faith, and labor organizations across the state that stand behind our work. Our mission is to improve the lives of working families in Maryland. Please note our strong SUPPORT FOR this bill.

If we start to impose a fee of \$15 per CO2 ton on non-transportation fuel and incrementally raise that fee \$5 a year, capping it at \$60, by 2030 the price of a CO2 ton will be \$50, and we will have met the social cost of carbon. This is how you will protect your constituents and our economy. The transportation fee is purposefully lower, starting at \$10 per CO2 ton rising only \$3 per year, capped at \$37. If we don't impose that fee this year, the challenges of our changing climate will grow more and more unpredictable for everyone.

With a no-pass through provision those costs are not passed down to the end user, but if changes occur in prices, HB0171 designates 80% of the Benefit Fund to go directly back to low moderate-income families to help with any rising cost of living.

20% of that Benefit Fund is provided to protect high-emission, trade-exposed businesses. Manufacturing makes up about 6% of Maryland's GDP, and is the most prominent example of an energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) business.

The CCEJ compliments HB0695 by providing funding for Climate Crisis Plans. The CCEJ Infrastructure Fund supports all Maryland counties and municipalities to create their own Climate Action Plan and provides funds to implement them! At least 50% of the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund must prioritize communities that have been affected by environmental injustice.

We urge a FAVORABLE report on HB0171.

Respectfully,

Yves Brady
yves@progressivemaryland.org, 240-602-6825