



**Committee: Economic Matters**

**Testimony on: HB171 - Climate Crisis & Environmental Justice Act**

**Organization: MLC Climate Justice Wing**

**Submitting: Diana Younts, Co-Chair**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 10, 2022**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The MLC Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB171. This bill sets a target of reducing Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions 100% by 2040 (with interim targets) and imposes two types of polluter, non-pass through, fossil-fuel fees: 1) a Building Heat fee; and 2) a transportation fuel fee.

Further, using the revenue generated through the polluter fees, the bill creates two funds:

- 1) The Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund that: a) invests in initiatives to improve the health and welfare of Marylanders, 50% of which shall be invested in projects that are directly located within and provide meaningful benefits to environmental justice communities; and b) up to 5% of the monies shall be to provide technical assistance, capacity, and planning tools to county and municipal governments for mitigation and resilience projects; and
- 2) Climate Crisis Benefits that a) receives 50% of the revenue from the polluter fees; and b) helps low and moderate income households and energy intensive trade-exposed businesses to protect them from financial harm.

HB171 thus holds polluters responsible for the damage they have caused and provides protection for our most vulnerable families and communities and for all Marylanders.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.