



WMDA/CAR Service Station
and Automotive Repair Association

Chair: C.T. Wilson
Members of Economic Matters Committee

Re HB171
Position: In Opposition

July 1, 2022, gas prices will increase when CPI and SUT tax increase tied to retail price from previous 12 months, combined, will be a significant increase in fuel price. Inflation for CPI and Sales Use Tax Equivalent (SUTE) combined will add double digits to price of fuel. To add a Fossil fuel fee in the form of \$10 dollars per metric ton Equivalent of CO2 would put a hardship on consumer and businesses. Another bill to drive up the cost of living in Maryland, with a yearly increase along with CPI and SUTE.

I know there will be some reimbursement, but when consumer pulls up to a pump, they will not have a state credit card in hand. Consumers that commute will be especially hit hard. Those that can, will shop across our borders for less expensive fuel and other consumer products that would normally be bought in our convenience stores and stations.

I know the bill says fees cannot be passed along as a direct cost. Direct or indirect, costs will end up at the pump, retailer will only be passing along what comes from up stream.

House holds will split up 80% of 50% from fees, businesses will split up 20% of that 50% but the bill fails to say what businesses will qualify or benefit. Surely not reassuring to small business or any Marylanders.

This bill will drive consumer prices for all products up and add to the struggles of the last 2 years.

Please give HB171 an unfavorable Report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and independent repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmdda.net