



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 708**

Comprehensive Climate Solutions

Date: March 4, 2022  
To: Economic Matters

Position: **Support**  
From: Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** HB 708 which sets net zero greenhouse gas emission goals, establishes energy saving programs, reduces fugitive methane emissions, incentivizes just transitions for fossil fuel workers and builds a labor force for green jobs.

CBF applauds the comprehensive nature of HB 708 realizing that transitioning an entire economy to limit the devastating effects of an unstable climate will take strategic investments, bold policies, and a vision toward environmental justice. It is crucial that communities disproportionately affected by rising seas, heat waves, flooding, and loss of recreational opportunities due to eroding beaches and subsiding marshes be at the forefront of leading a new economy to arrest those trends in their communities and throughout the state.

It is also important to recognize that methane emanating from our landfills is a result of decades of disposal of organic wastes. Methane is far more powerful of a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and is most active in the years directly following its emission. As such, it must be a priority to control methane emissions even more so than carbon dioxide if we wish to reach the net zero goal by 2045 and slow warming for the remainder of this century.

The bill's emphasis on studying the potential benefits of mass transit expansion are also welcome as mass transit ridership increase will directly reduce vehicle miles traveled and can create reductions far sooner than the conversion to an electric vehicle fleet. Mass transit also serves the substantial number of Marylanders who lack access to a personal vehicle.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 708.** For more information, please contact Robin Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney at [rclark@cbf.org](mailto:rclark@cbf.org) and 443.995.8753.

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*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*