



Central Maryland Chamber
The Center of Intelligent Business

Legislative Position: Unfavorable
Senate Bill 552
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 23, 2022

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

The Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce (CMC) was formed in 2017, a merger of two existing chambers- The Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber (originally founded in 1948) and the West Anne Arundel County Chamber (originally founded in 1962). The CMC is a regional organization representing approximately 350 businesses in the Central Maryland corridor and exists to be the primary business resource and advocate as the area experiences exponential growth.

The Central Maryland Chamber is writing to oppose SB552.

Senate bill 552 creates a requirement for each individual county within the state of Maryland to prepare its own climate crisis plan and submit their plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment by 6/1/23 with a final plan due by 1/1/24. Each county will be required to update and resubmit their plan every 3 years.

It is our opinion that it is difficult enough for a small state like Maryland to implement statewide plans and mandates, having each individual county with their own programs on top of statewide plans will cause severe differences between counties and may cause one county to be more competitive than others. This will make it incredibly difficult for the businesses within those counties to abide by different rules and different timelines depending on where they're located, especially if they have multiple locations or do business across county lines.

Our businesses already struggling with the many restrictions within the state, as well as laws that vary county by county. There is much discussion this session about a statewide greenhouse gas bill. If that passes, HB695 would then implement 24 additional plans on top of the state bill which will only cause expense and confusion.

The Central Maryland Chamber requests that you vote unfavorably on SB552.