

MIKE MCKAY
Legislative District 1C
Allegany and Washington Counties

Appropriations Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 322
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3321 · 301-858-3321
800-492-7122 Ext. 3321
Mike.McKay@house.state.md.us

District Office
100 North Mechanic Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502
240-362-7040

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2022

Environment and Transportation Committee

House Office Building, Room 251

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Barve and Vice Chair Stein and the Members of the Environment and Transportation,

My name is Delegate Mike McKay and it is a privilege to introduce HB1331 – The Coal Ash Recycling Act of 2022. This bill directs the development of a statewide facility that would be designated as recycling deposits for all coal ash active disposal sites. It requires that certain materials used in the State include coal ash as a component of the material; requiring materials used for the protection and stabilization of shorelines, precast concrete forms, castings and other nonstructural applications. It also requires all contractors licensed in the State to use and give preference to materials that include coal ash; requiring any person utilizing materials in the State that include coal ash to give preference to certain materials, hire local employees for certain work, and submit certain information; etc.

My legislative goals are to

1. Supply “Made in America” sustainable construction strategies in collaboration with private companies, academia, State and Federal agencies, building generational rural economic development clusters to meet the green infrastructure demands.
2. Public –Private Partnership (P3) networks like “Sustainable Material Management Maryland” (SM3) program to implement sustainable initiatives with shovel-ready projects in legacy coal communities.
3. Create well paid, unionized, rural job opportunities in legacy coal communities through innovative Waste-to-Value projects in a robust Just Transition framework for Maryland and Appalachia.

This “green cement” can be used for non-structural applications, precast concrete forms and others types castings. In addition to these the by product can be use in the shoreline erosion and restoration programs for Maryland that are on the horizon. The program estimated cost is 27 billion over the next 20 year; similar coastal American projects are estimated at in excess of \$400 billion. Materials and expertise addressing these new demands add to critical infrastructure.

We have included two amendments for consideration and a slide show concerning coal in storage in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

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Amendment One; Striking “Wind Turbine Foundations” and substitute “nonstructural Applications”

Amendment Two: Inserting “to the extent required by project specifications and consistent with sound engineering principals”.

In conclusion efforts in Western Maryland and Statewide pursuit of the development of low carbon beneficial uses of waste coal ash will align well with state objectives in innovation, the environment and a post-coal framework. Reducing the manufacturing of virgin cement and its associated greenhouse gas emissions will help to support the climate goals of our state, our region and around the world. The millions of tons of waste coal ash in storage could be processed for the benefit of Marylanders, creating needed building materials, project opportunities for students and new work force jobs throughout the region.

Thank you, I urge a favorable report.

Delegate Mike McKay

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