



TESTIMONY FOR HB0171 CLIMATE CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACT

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0171 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing. The Climate Justice Wing is comprised of Environmental Justice groups, Faith groups, and Environmental Activists, with over 50 groups throughout the state. We represent the voices of constituents who share our concern over the harm that reliance on fossil fuels has wreaked in Maryland.

Our Coalition members strongly approve of measures to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions to zero as quickly as possible. We believe that the state should take an aggressive stance in moving in this direction.

This bill strikes a very good balance between aggressive climate policy that will help us achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, and supporting those communities that have been most impacted by the dirty energy policies that we are trying to leave behind. It also takes a somewhat poetic approach in making the very entities who have become rich by flooding our state with fossil fuels to fund our transition to clean energy.

We consider this bill a companion to SB0528, the Climate Solutions Now Act, since that bill's robust and bold attack on greenhouse gases would be even easier to implement with additional funds. We believe that the fossil fuel companies who have for decades knowingly caused the climate crisis that we are currently experiencing, should be the ones to help reverse it. They have all touted the fact that they are spending billions to reverse the effects of climate change, but it seems that their efforts are not really effective and are designed to actually make our reliance on fossil fuels even greater. We think the state of Maryland would do a much better job of investing in reducing greenhouse gases than the fossil fuel industry.

The bill places a fee on fossil fuel products coming into the state and cleverly prohibits the entities who must pay the fee to then turn around and pass the fee on to consumers. The fee will escalate over time to drive home the point that fossil fuels are not our future and that companies supporting that industry should abandon it as soon as possible.

The monies that are collected from the carbon fee will then be used to fund green infrastructure projects and provide support to low-income households and energy intensive trade exposed businesses affected by the change to cleaner energy sources. The funds will also be directed towards municipalities with environmental justice populations, which we enthusiastically support.

This will have the effect of changing our course to a cleaner future while having the polluters pay for it. They have made their fortunes on the backs of Marylanders for decades. We believe it is time they gave back.

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

350 Baltimore
350 Montgomery County
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Assateague Coastal Trust
Audubon Naturalist Society
Casa de Maryland
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church
CHEER
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Chispa MD
Clean Air Prince Georges
Climate Law & Policy Project
Climate Parents of Prince Georges
Climate Solutions
Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis
Climate XChange - Maryland
Coalition For Smarter Growth
Columbia Association Climate change and
Concerned Citizens Against Industrial Cafos
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Environmental Justice Ministry
Frack Free Frostburg
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Howard County Indivisible
Howard County Sierra Club
Labor for Sustainability
Laurel Resist
Maryland Environmental Health Network
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland NAACP State Conference, Environmental Justice Committee
Maryland Poor People's Campaign
MCPS Clean Energy Campaign
MD Campaign for Environmental Human Rights
Mid-Atlantic Earth Holders
Mid-Atlantic National Parks Conservation Association
Ministry of Maryland

MoCo DCC
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Potomac Conservancy
sustainability advisory committee
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
Talbot Rising
The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County
The Nature Conservancy
Unitarian Universalist Legislative
Wicomico NAACP
WISE