



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1263
ENVIRONMENT – OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE - ESTABLISHMENT**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate P. Young

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1263 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

During its 2015 session, the Maryland General Assembly codified the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) into law, officially charging the Commission with advising the Governor and General Assembly "on ways to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change. The MCCC has been hard at work, and in November of 2021, they issued a report which had support from virtually the entire committee, that provided Maryland with a path forward. Even the Utility Companies and Fossil Fuel Companies who were on the Commission voted in favor of the recommendations.

Now, we have to make them real. We need what this bill is recommending to do so. This bill will create the Office of Climate Change, which will work with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change to implement their recommendations. This Office will work with both state agencies and local governments to develop state and local plans that support the MCCC recommendations, and identify the resources needed for the implementation of those plans.

The General Assembly works hard to create regulations which are designed to resolve major issues in Maryland. Often, they do not get implemented properly because there is no oversight mechanism. This is the oversight mechanism for one of the most consequential series of actions that Maryland can take.

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