



TESTIMONY FOR HB0915

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program and Climate Impact Health Coverage Program – Establishment

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 HB0915 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

It is past time that the fossil fuel industry took responsibility for the billions of dollars of climate change remediation the state has had to pay for flooding and other disasters caused by climate change. All the while that the state of Maryland and its residents were footing the bill for the climate change economic and health toll caused by fossil fuels (which the industry knew about decades ago), the fossil fuel companies were making record profits.

The Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program makes these businesses that extract fossil fuels or sell refined petroleum products in Maryland pay a fee to support climate change adaptive or mitigation infrastructure projects, especially for vulnerable populations. The fee would be based on that business's relative share of the greenhouse gases they produced.

Based on the profits recorded from the price gouging that took place during the pandemic, the fossil fuel companies should not even feel the bite of this, but our members believe that they should be forced to take responsibility for their actions.

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