



MARYLAND
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

February 28, 2023

SB 548

Maryland Energy Administration - Energy Programs - Modifications (Clean Transportation and Energy Act)

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 548 (1) modifies two transportation sector programs funded by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF); (2) modifies the authorized uses of certain Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) deposited in SEIF; and (3) increases the dollar amount cap on the amount of certain SEIF revenues that may be allocated toward administrative expenses.

As Pope Francis has written, climate change *“represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day”* (*Laudato Si'*, no. 25), threatening the wellbeing of peoples and the environment. Catholic social teaching envisions a sustainable and authentic human development, where technological solutions respect the principle of integral ecology and consider social, economic and ecological considerations.

Senate Bill 548 aims to address the much-needed investment in renewable energy policies to be set to sustain and achieve a healthy global ecosystem. Thus, we must seek a society where economic life and environmental commitment work together to protect and to enhance life on this planet.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and respectfully urges a **favorable** report for Senate Bill 548.