



HB155

Maryland Energy Administration - Carbon Capture Opportunity Program - Establishment

Testimony before the Economic Matters Committee

Hearing February 8, 2024

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Wilson and Co-Chair Crosby, and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB155**, which would establish the Carbon Capture Opportunity Program in the Maryland Energy Administration. We appreciate the leadership of Delegate Jazz Lewis in sponsoring this legislation.

Maryland has ambitious goals to reduce our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over the next two decades. This is admirable and necessary. However, in 2022 alone, Maryland released 16 millions metric tons CO₂ⁱ. And considered that carbon has a long-life span in our atmosphere, between 300 and 1,000 yearsⁱⁱ, cutting our GHG emissions is not enough to solve our climate crisis. This bill would provide support to non-profits and for-profit organizations that want to research and develop carbon capture systems within the state. Capturing carbon is also necessary because the GHG levels will continue to impact us, regardless if we stop producing carbon today because of carbon's long life. Maryland can be a leader in carbon capture with the help of this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Virginia Smith
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ⁱ <https://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/ghgrp-state-and-tribal-fact-sheet>

ⁱⁱ <https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2915/the-atmosphere-getting-a-handle-on-carbon-dioxide/#:~:text=Carbon%20dioxide%20is%20a%20different,timescale%20of%20many%20human%20lives.>