

DANA M. STEIN  
*Legislative District 11B*  
Baltimore County

—  
SPEAKER PRO TEM  
—

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Environment

Natural Resources,  
Agriculture and Open Space



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 301  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3527 · 301-858-3527  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3527  
Dana.Stein@house.state.md.us

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

## **Delegate Stein's Testimony in Support of HB 1272**

### **Department of the Environment – Cap-and-Invest Program - Establishment**

Cap-and-invest is a type of pollution regulation that sets a cap on pollution from a specific set of pollution sources and reduces that cap over time. It is designed in a way that also drives investment from polluters into reduction projects and consumer benefit programs.

Maryland has been implementing a cap-and-invest program for carbon pollution from power plants for more than 15 years through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Ten states actively participate in RGGI right now: Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

RGGI states have reduced carbon pollution from power plants faster than the country as a whole, cutting pollution roughly in half since the program began.

Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan identified a broader cap-and-invest program as a potential measure that would drive more rapid greenhouse gas emissions reductions across Maryland's economy and raise funding to invest in key clean energy, clean transportation, and clean industry projects in Maryland homes, businesses, and communities. The plan tasked MDE with evaluating how expanding the cap-and-invest policy framework to additional sectors of Maryland's economy would work.

This bill would ensure that evaluation of this potential measure happens by the end of the year and follows key priorities for energy affordability and environmental justice.