



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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*Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education*

## **House Bill 155**

Maryland Energy Administration – Carbon Capture Opportunity Program  
– Establishment

Date: February 8, 2024

To: Economic Matters Committee

Position: **Unfavorable**

From: Doug Myers  
Maryland Senior Scientist

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Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** HB 155 which establishes a research and development grant program within the Maryland Energy Administration for a Carbon Capture Opportunity Program.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is mentioned in the state's Climate Pathway document both as a strategy for meeting greenhouse gas reductions targets and as an opportunity for new investments in research and development for the technology. However, the current state of the technology and its potential impacts do not meet Maryland's climate needs nor justify a significant investment of state funds. Our research indicates that while the technology is efficient at removing carbon dioxide from concentrated sources, like a smokestack, it is not effective at removing lower concentrations from ambient air. Also, alternate uses like using removed carbon dioxide to create building materials such as cement is lower risk of re-emitting than injection underground and has a positive greenhouse gas removal function from a lifecycle perspective.

Research also indicates that at current levels of technology, the amount of greenhouse gases carbon capture and storage (CCS) can remove are very small compared to the target levels and nature-based solutions like tree planting, regenerative agriculture and Blue Carbon which are more effective at removing and storing carbon and provide additional ecosystem services. State resources would be better directed into these more promising and cost-effective solutions.

**CBF requests the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on HB 155.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.