



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

HB 1272 - Department of the Environment - Cap-and-Invest Program - Establishment

POSITION: Support

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

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Since the emergence of the environmental movement in the 1970's, the League of Women Voters has advocated for policies that protect our planet and promote public health. The League believes in increasing energy efficiency and transitioning to predominant reliance on renewable energy sources. Establishing emissions cap programs is an important tool for reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **supports HB 1272**, which would require the Department of Environment and Commission on Climate Change to develop a cap-and-invest program. This program would establish declining, economy-wide emissions caps, and require polluters to purchase emissions allowances. The revenue would then be invested in the state's policy efforts that work towards achieving Maryland's ambitious climate goals. The cap-and-invest program would be designed to reduce climate pollution, while also addressing energy affordability and environmental justice.

The Maryland Department of the Environment's [2023 Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#) estimates that an approximately \$1 billion investment is needed *each year* for the state to achieve its clean energy transition goals. **HB 1272** would create an important source of revenue for funding key policy initiatives that work towards achieving Maryland's climate targets. These investments would notably benefit overburdened and underserved communities who are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **strongly urges a favorable report on HB 1272.**