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MAJORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Delegate Jazz Lewis on HB155– Maryland Energy Administration - Carbon Capture Opportunity Program - Establishment**

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee,

For the record, Delegate Jazz Lewis here to testify on HB155 to establish a Carbon Capture Opportunity Program within the Maryland Energy Administration, a bill I am proud to introduce. This bill strives to ensure that Maryland takes full advantage of the available federal dollars to leverage carbon management projects, which can help us fight climate change while boosting economic opportunities here in the state.

With the passage of a number of pieces of federal legislation, a substantial amount of money is currently available for carbon capture projects. The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act alone offered up \$12 billion in funding for such projects. Such projects are an innovative way to lessen the amount of carbon in our atmosphere while promoting high-quality jobs. These are resources that Maryland should be competing for, right now and in the future, as this science grows and becomes more widely available.

HB155 sets out to help organizations looking to launch projects here in Maryland compete for currently available funding and future funding down the line. Under this legislation, MEA would be an ally and resource to those seeking to start up these projects here in the state by having MEA assist in the grant applications for these federal dollars and other grant money. This will ensure that we work with private industry to launch these projects right here in Maryland by utilizing those resources that are currently available. HB155 would also have MEA provide technical assistance on these projects as well so that we can aid in the execution as well as the grant applications. The hope is that this legislation will be a boost to carbon management projects here in the state while also limiting the fiscal impacts of the bill.

For the committee's awareness, we are currently working on an amendment to the bill to change references to carbon capture to carbon management so those projects that would be covered under the bill would be more expansive than just carbon capture projects.

This bill sets out to make sure that Maryland is able to compete for dollars to support an innovative industry that will not just support our local economy and boost jobs, but also lessen our carbon footprint and remove carbon that has already polluted our atmosphere.

**For these reasons, I urge a favorable report.**

Delegate Jazz Lewis