



## Testimony Supporting SB0861

### Public Utilities – High-Energy-Use Facilities- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

### Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Thursday, March 7, 2024

**Position: FAVORABLE**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sonia Demiray, I am the co-founder of the Climate Communications Coalition, a member of the Mid-Atlantic Justice Coalition and the climate Forest Campaign -among others-, and a resident of Frederick County.

Our group fully endorses SB0861, introduced by Senators Lewis Young and Watson, to ensure that all high energy use facilities –no exceptions- reduce their emissions to match the goals of the State. During this climate emergency, it is key that everyone pull their weight, in order to meet much needed emission reductions and avert the worst of the climate crisis. As we work together to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint, nobody should be able to continue polluting and simply purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions. We don't have time to waste with carbon trade schemes that have opened loopholes for polluting and profitable industry to simply purchase credits (or plant trees) and not clean up their emissions. These loopholes must be closed and SB0861 is a step in the right direction.

The Climate Communications Coalition wholeheartedly endorses the proposal that any high-energy-use operation or facility, no matter what they produce or manufacture, must reduce their emissions as stated:

- By 60% by 2027 over emissions from 2022
- By 80% by 2030
- By 90% by 2035
- 100% by 2040

Nobody should get a free ride or offset emissions in the process of climate alerting emissions, especially not the very profitable high-energy use facilities.

Thank you.

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