



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: HB 990 - Environment - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Manufacturers

DATE: March 26, 2024

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

This bill would exclude cement manufacturing from the definition of “manufacturing” for the purpose of the applicable sections of the Environment Article as it relates to the state’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Maryland has enacted one of the most ambitious standards in the country, a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions required by the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA), and it cannot be achieved without all sectors of our state playing a role in climate mitigation solutions. Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan (the Plan) notes that cement plants account for nearly all coal use in the industrial sector, making it ripe for fuel switching to make large emission reductions.¹

Therefore, the Plan calls for the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to continue its current practice of providing grants for energy efficiency and decarbonization projects at industrial facilities and for the state to provide additional support for decarbonization activities across Maryland’s industrial sector. Priority investments will include cement manufacturing decarbonization under the Plan. MDE, MEA, and the Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) are to increase staff capacity to partner with industry to streamline access to grants and financing for emissions reduction projects.

The bill also directly reflects a recommendation of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) included in its 2023 annual report.²

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue a **favorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, directly (landon.fahrig@maryland.gov, 410.931.1537).

¹ Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, p43-44, mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/Maryland%20Climate%20Reduction%20Plan/Maryland%27s%20Climate%20Pollution%20Reduction%20Plan%20-%20Final%20-%20Dec%2028%202023.pdf

² See Mitigation Working Group (MWG) recommendation No. 12, mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Documents/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202023/MCCC%20Annual%20Report%202023.pdf