

KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Committee on Education, Energy,
and the Environment



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 302
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3575 · 301-858-3575
800-492-7122 Ext. 3575
Karen.Young@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Honorable Senator Feldman, Chair
The Honorable Senator Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Maryland Senate
Annapolis, MD

February 13th, 2024

Testimony in Support of SB384: Carbon Capture Opportunity Program

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and esteemed members of this committee,

I am here to testify in favor of SB384. This bill directs the Maryland Energy Administration to establish a program to assist businesses and non-profits based in Maryland apply for federal and private funding to research and implement carbon management technology. The federal government's Inflation Reduction Act created strong tax incentives for companies pursuing carbon management technology. The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act offered an additional \$12 billion in incentives through grants, loans, and tax cuts.

What is carbon management and why is it important? Carbon management is a process of negating carbon emissions. One type of carbon management, carbon capture and storage (CCS), takes carbon produced by industrial processes and power generation and stores it, usually deep underground. Another type of carbon management is reforestation, which has the additional benefits of reducing rainwater runoff and urban heat sinks. Researchers at the University of Maryland are working on new technology involving microalgae that would, "Reduce carbon dioxide emissions on an industrial scale while producing valuable byproducts such as nutraceuticals and biofuels¹."

According to the United Nations, in order to avert the worst effects of climate change we will need carbon negative technology, not just carbon neutral. In Maryland, despite the increase of renewables, only 13 percent of our state's energy consumption comes from renewables². The

¹ University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, "Researchers Pursue Green Technology To Capture Carbon Dioxide Emissions."

<https://www.umces.edu/news/researchers-pursue-green-technology-to-capture-carbon-dioxide-emissions>

² Maryland Energy Administration.

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/energy.html#:~:text=Renewable%20energy%20production%20in%20Maryland,two%2Dfifths%20came%20from%20hydropower.> Maryland State Archives.

remainder comes from coal, gas, and other sources. In order to counteract the increased demand for energy, and therefore the increased demand for the energy sources putting carbon in our air, we need to manage our carbon emissions through either capturing them before they enter our atmosphere, or directly negating their influence.

This program, implemented at minimal cost, will allow the Maryland Energy Administration to help homegrown businesses and non-profits compete for those federal incentives. Those businesses and non-profits will bring jobs. With this legislation, the Maryland Energy Administration will be a resource for them while opening another avenue for our state to achieve our legally mandated net zero emissions goals.

We know how important fighting climate change is. No options should be off the table. This bill will help us translate the business-friendly climate the federal government has created to climate-friendly solutions here in Maryland. I urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Lewis Young". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Senator Karen Lewis Young