

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
Economic Matters  
**Testimony on:** HB990 –Environment – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Manufacturers  
**Submitting:** Deborah A. Cohn  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 22, 2024

Dear Chair Korman and Wilson and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing my testimony today in support of HB990.

Maryland has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) to 60% of 2006 levels by 2031 and transitioning to a net-zero economy by 2045. Doing so will require not only the building and transportation sectors, but also the manufacturing sector to reduce GHG emissions.

**Problem:** In 2009, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA) authorized the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to regulate GHG emissions from all sectors of Maryland’s economy *other than manufacturing*. In 2016, when GGRA was renewed, the manufacturing sector remained exempt. Even in 2022, when the General Assembly passed the Climate Solutions Now Act, the manufacturing sector remained exempt. According to the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, *Maryland is the only state with GHG reduction goals that exempts manufacturing*. The reasons are clear. States cannot adequately reduce GHG emissions without significant reductions in the manufacturing sector. Maryland is no exception. In 2020, the manufacturing sector accounted for *nearly 10%* of Maryland’s GHG emissions. The two highest emitting manufacturing facilities were cement production plants but since cement is used in the production of concrete, technology advances in the manufacturing of concrete with fewer GHG emissions also holds potential.

**Solution:** HB990 would *authorize* (not direct) the Department of the Environment to require GHG emissions reductions from the state’s manufacturing sector. This action was recommended in the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan. HB990 would do three things:

- Direct MDE *to consider* requiring GHG emissions reductions from the manufacturers that come to Maryland after 2023.
- Remove the exemption from GHG emissions reductions for existing cement manufacturers.
- Set a new pollution baseline for existing manufacturers to be regulated at their 2023 emissions levels.

Reducing GHG from the manufacturing sector, including the cement manufacturing facilities and in the manufacture of concrete, is reasonable. Several advances in materials science and new technologies have developed in recent years to reduce the GHG emissions of cement production and reduce the amount of cement needed to product concrete. These include switching from ordinary Portland cement to cement combined with limestone or cement that incorporates  $CO_2$ . But newer technologies may even permit [zero-carbon cement](#) that can be used in lieu of traditional cement. Several technologies, such as adding pozzolans to cement or [recycling concrete](#) can also be used to reduce GHG emissions in the manufacturing sector. New [technologies](#) that allow the production and long term storage of

extremely high heat thermal energy produced from wind and solar energy, with the ability to release that heat on demand, are also being developed.

In other words, some GHG reductions in the manufacturing sector are commercially available now, and others may prove economically feasible and commercially available in the next several years, soon enough to make a significant difference in GHG emissions from the manufacturing sector.

Accordingly, I urge a **FAVORABLE** report for HB990 in committee.