



HB84- TRANSPORTATION AND CLIMATE ALIGNMENT ACT

TESTIMONY OF BRITTANY BAKER, MARYLAND POLICY DIRECTOR AT THE CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act seeks to offset greenhouse gas emissions from the Maryland Department of Transportation's major capital projects by investing \$100 million in clean energy transportation. The state will also measure the current emissions of these projects to determine if the level of emissions are on track to align with the goals of the Climate Solutions Now Act and Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

The funding for clean energy transportation will prioritize infrastructure for bike and pedestrian lanes, solar projects on MDOT property, and expansion of public bus options in overburdened and underserved communities. By increasing mobility options for Marylanders beyond cars, we also increase their access to jobs, healthcare, and educational opportunities. This is especially vital for underserved populations including Black and Brown Communities, low-income families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

Colorado and Minnesota have both already passed similar legislation and seen huge benefits for commuters. Marylanders can expect to cut down the amount of hours they wait in traffic by 26 hours per year because of decreased vehicles on the road and will save \$3,000 per year with the option of more affordable mass transit¹.

The implementation of HB84 will result in less individual vehicle usage in the state, which comes with a myriad of health benefits for Marylanders. The encouragement of active transportation options like walking and biking improves physical health and results in cumulative healthcare savings of \$20 billion annually for Marylanders². Those who choose public transportation are generally safer from crash injuries than car users. This bill will help Maryland achieve its Vision Zero Goals. When the development of clean energy transportation options in HB84 achieves the state's goal of reducing vehicle miles traveled by 20% by 2050, roughly 171 crash fatalities per year could be avoided³.

The Transportation and Climate Alignment Act is a practical step toward a healthier and safer future for Maryland.

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB84.

¹ Smarter MODES Calculator: Maryland results given 20% VMT reduction per capita and 100% EV adoption by 2050, RMI, 2024.

² <https://www.railstotrails.org/resource-library/resources/active-transportation-transforms-america-report/>

³ Smarter MODES Calculator: Maryland results given 20% VMT reduction per capita and 100% EV adoption by 2050, RMI, 2024. Version 1.20.2025