

02/21/2025

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TESTIMONY ON HB#/0505- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Empowering New Energy Resources and Green Initiatives Toward a Zero-Emission (ENERGIZE) Maryland Act

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0505, **Empowering New Energy Resources and Green Initiatives Toward a Zero-Emission (ENERGIZE) Maryland Act**

In 2022 Maryland committed to the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 which committed the state to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels usage. The act requiring the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by altering statewide greenhouse gas emissions goals, establishing of a net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions goal, developing certain energy efficiency and emissions reduction requirements for certain buildings, requiring electric companies to increase their annual incremental gross energy savings, establishing certain zero-emission vehicle requirements for the State fleet, and establishing an electric school bus pilot program.

This bill supports that mission on the reduction of the use of fossil fuels due to their negative impact on the environment.

- “What is the link between fossil fuels and climate change? When fossil fuels are burned, they release large amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, into the air. Greenhouse gases trap heat in our atmosphere, causing global warming. Already the average global temperature has increased by 1C.”¹
- Burning fossil fuels releases nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere, contributing to the formation of smog and acid rain. The presence of excess nitrogen in the atmosphere in the form of nitrogen oxides or ammonia is deposited back onto land, where it washes into nearby water bodies.²

¹ <https://www.clientearth.org/latest/news/fossil-fuels-and-climate-change-the-facts/#:~:text=What%20is%20the%20link%20between,temperature%20has%20increased%20by%201C.>

² <https://www.epa.gov/nutrientpollution/sources-and-solutions-fossil-fuels/#:~:text=Burning%20fossil%20fuels%20releases%20nitrogen,washes%20into%20nearby%20water%20bodies.>

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In recognition of the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels in Maryland this bill will jumpstart this process by renaming the "renewable energy portfolio standard" to be the "clean energy portfolio standard". It will alter the minimum required percentage of energy that must be derived from clean energy sources in certain years under the clean energy portfolio standard. It will support the use of offshore wind as a source of clean energy by altering the contents of and approval criteria for an application for an offshore wind project. It will govern the process of integrating nuclear energy as an energy source for Maryland by establishing a process for the Public Service Commission to review and approve an application for a proposed nuclear energy generation project.

The Brookings Institute studied *Why are fossil fuels so hard to quit?*³ I recommend their analysis of how the world came to depend on fossil fuels; oil, coal and gas, and how that developed. The fossil fuel industry funds much of our politics and politicians. But they are not looked long-term on winding down the use of their product before climate change, already happening, reaches a point that affects the long-term survival of the human race. I urge you to ask them what they will do when climate change from their products overwhelms the planet's ability to compensate.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0505.

³ <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-are-fossil-fuels-so-hard-to-quit/>