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February 27, 2025

OPPOSE: SB 779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Chair Feldman, Chair Beidle, and Members of the Committees:

Maryland LCV opposes SB 779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025.

Maryland LCV opposes actions that would undermine the state's commitments to its climate goals and ultimately its goals for public health and a clean economy future. Maryland LCV was actively involved in the passage of, and now in the implementation of, the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA).

We recognize that the solutions outlined in the CSNA and the Climate [Pollution Reduction Plan](#) require up-front investments, but these investments yield benefits and savings in different parts of the economy that offset such upfront costs. Introducing the economic feasibility language in SB 779 creates additional barriers for state agencies to overcome to comply with the CSNA and implement strategies that help meet our state goals. Focusing on the economic feasibility of these initiatives discounts important considerations like long-term public health benefits. As an alternative approach, the state should focus on passing innovative revenue generating bills like the Coal Dust Clean Up and Asthma Mitigation Fund, SB 882, which would significantly contribute to the full implementation of the CSNA.

Full implementation of the state's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, reducing greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2031, is projected to generate substantial economic and public health benefits. This includes up to \$1.2 billion in public health benefits and \$2.5 billion in increased personal income. Amending the CSNA through SB 779 by incorporating the language "to the extent economically practicable" introduces unnecessary and new uncertainties that hinder the state's ability to fully achieve the climate and health goals essential to adequately protecting our state and our residents.

The General Assembly made a commitment to Maryland when they set climate targets and passed the CSNA. This is not the time to limit its strength and allow solutions to delay further and allow costly climate change impacts to compound. It is a critical time to take actions that reduce climate change impacts, thereby improving public health outcomes. Maryland LCV urges an unfavorable report on this bill.