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Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Pensions

Procurement

Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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TESTIMONY – SENATE BILL 425

***ENVIRONMENT – COAL CUMBUSTION BY-PRODUCTS –
FEES, COORDINATING COMMITTEE, AND REGULATIONS
EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE***

FEBRUARY 11, 2025

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 425 is a piece of legislation aimed at mitigating the environmental and public health impacts of coal ash and to bridge any gaps that may exist between state and federal regulations.

To accomplish this end, the bill would do a few things. The Maryland Department of Environment would be required to initiate state coal ash disposal regulations mirroring and potentially exceeding those established by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (in May 2024) and to increase base fees for power generators who produce coal ash waste. Additionally, a statewide committee to ensure the implementation of the related regulations would be created.

The legislation is simply a means to protect public health and to give the Maryland Department of Environment the necessary tools to protect Maryland residents from the harmful and disease-causing chemical byproducts created from burning coal.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 425.