



**FAVORABLE Testimony for SB882**  
**Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund (Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act)**

Senate - Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Jose Coronado-Flores on Behalf of the CASA

February 27th, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund (Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act)**. CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 60,000 Black and Latino immigrants and working families in Maryland.

Our members living in Bladensburg, Cheverly, Rockville, and in East, West, and South Baltimore are right on the path of the CSX train line. Beyond the cumulative impacts of many polluting facilities in these very communities, coal transport is one of the most impactful. When the massive CSX cars pass by our communities, they absolutely pollute the air and water around the tracks. Dust and other particulates radiate into the surrounding communities sometimes even leaving layers of coal dust on homes, cars, trees, and any exposed surfaces.

This occurs when kids are playing outside, families wait for public transportation, and pedestrians simply roam their neighborhoods. Many of our CASA members, leaders, and even organizers who live in the vicinity of these tracks have asthma or pulmonary issues in general. Our immigrant community has a unique perspective on the impacts of pollution, because many individuals were never sick or never had pulmonary ailments of any kind until moving into these communities.

The funds from this fee would bolster energy efficiency projects in the community, respond to the asthmatic populations that coal transportation has created, and focus on reduction of fossil fuels and fossil fuel infrastructure. Working-class communities poisoned daily by coal transportation deserve remediation and benefits from this moving source of pollution that does not take them into account. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report.

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