

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: SB 883 - Coal Clean Up and Asthma Mitigation Fund

Submitting: Abigail Bautista

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date:

**Dear Chair and Committee Members,**

My name is Abigail Bautista, and I am a high school student at Dundalk High School. I have lived my entire life in Baltimore City, in District 41. I am writing to express my strong support for **SB 883 The Coal Clean Up Asthma Mitigation Fund**, as this bill is deeply important to me and my community.

Communities along transportation routes experience higher rates of asthma and respiratory issues, and my little sister is one of the many children suffering from asthma. The coal dust she breathes every day severely affects her health, and families like mine have been left without the resources needed to combat this pollution.

I want to thank **Senator Attar** for taking the time to meet with us on **February 15, 2025**. It was encouraging to hear that the bills we discussed resonated with you, and I want to remind you of the commitment you made to support SB 883.

This bill is **crucial** because it will help reduce coal pollution and allocate \$5 million annually for asthma treatment programs—a much-needed investment for communities that have long been forgotten in the fight against air pollution. I urge the entire Committee to vote in favor of SB 883 and help ensure cleaner air and better health for all.

Sincerely,

*Abigail Bautista*