



Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Testimony on: SB882 - Coal Dust Clean Up and Asthma Mitigation Fund
Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition - Climate Justice Wing
Submitting: Dave Arndt, Co-Chair
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 27, 2025

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB882. The Maryland Legislative Coalition - Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB882.

SB882 builds upon the principle of the existing 8-cent per barrel fee for oil transfers that allocates funds to help address oil spills and protect communities by creating a new fund that addresses the impact of coal transport on our communities and climate. It is estimated that SB882 would bring in approximately \$300 million per year for climate programs.

The benefits of SB882 are clear:

- We are in a Climate Crisis and this bill encourages cleaner transportation methods and reduced reliance on fossil fuels.
- This bill is a pivotal step towards Maryland's ambitious clean energy targets by ensuring a fair contribution from fossil fuel transport to the state's environmental and clean energy funds.
- Fighting climate change and mitigating the effects of climate change are expensive propositions and are especially difficult when Maryland has a constrained budget. This bill provides additional funding which can further our leadership in climate solutions, support equitable energy access, and protect our natural resources for future generations.
- It directs 40% of revenue to support overburdened and underserved communities affected by coal transport.
- It provides \$5 million annually for asthma treatment programs targeting residents living along coal transport routes.

We strongly support SB882; however, we suggest one change that would strengthen the bill - to include an escalating fee structure to further support our efforts to combat climate change and encourage a reduced reliance on fossil fuels.

For all of these reasons, we strongly support HB882 and urge a **FAVORABLE** report in Committee.

Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland
WISE