



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 779 Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Date: February 27, 2025	Position: UNFAVORABLE
To: Education, Energy, & Environment Committee Finance Committee	From: Gussie Maguire, MD Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 779, which would specify that some provisions of the landmark Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 are to be carried out “to the extent economically practicable”. The Climate Solutions Now Act was a carefully-crafted piece of legislation adopted to set a long-term plan for addressing climate change’s impact on Maryland. Now is not the time to backtrack on our climate commitments.

Climate change has immediate and drastic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay, many of which are already being witnessed. Warmer climates translate into warmer waters, which decrease dissolved oxygen, exacerbating the Bay’s fish-killing “dead zones” and contributing to algal blooms. Rising water temperatures stress fish and reducing the populations from the Bay’s iconic striped bass to brook trout. Other temperature-sensitive species such as eel grass, a critical habitat plant, are at risk.

Atmospheric deposition of nitrogen is the highest nitrogen input load in the Chesapeake Bay. Nitrogen pollution feeds algal blooms that block sunlight to underwater grasses and suck up life supporting oxygen when they die and decompose. The principal source of oxidized nitrogen, also called NOx, is produced by machines or processes that are powered by gas, coal or oil, like the heating of a building¹.

While policymakers cannot be blind to the economic condition of State government, private businesses, and individual Marylanders, the fact is climate change is a pressing threat to Maryland. With an uncertain leadership outlook at the Federal level, it is more important than ever for the State to exercise leadership to mitigate the impacts of climate change and make sensible, sustainable changes to reduce our greenhouse gas impacts.

CBF urges the Committee’s UNFAVORABLE report on SB 779.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ Chesapeake Bay Program, [Air Pollution: What airborne pollutants are affecting Bay health?](#)