



## **TESTIMONY FOR SB0882**

### **Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund (Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Mitigation Fund)**

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Rosapepe

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB0882 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

This bill is a timely and welcome solution to the current budgetary crisis that is already putting a pinch on the state's climate goals. It also brings in funds from the very same people who put us in the horrible position we are in terms of climate change.

The bill would require that those businesses that bring fossil fuels into Maryland pay a fee of \$13 per short ton. The revenues from those fees would then be used to pay for our climate programs. Approximately 40% of the revenues received would support overburdened and underserved communities, and approximately \$5 million would be set aside for asthma treatment programs targeting residents living along coal transport routes.

Our members would very much like to see the companies that made fortunes off of harming our health and our planet pay for what they knowingly did. We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.