



TESTIMONY AGAINST SB 0779

Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

UNFAVORABLE

TO: Sen. Brian J. Feldman, Chair; Sen. Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee; and

FROM: Rev. Kenneth Phelps, Jr., The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

DATE: February 25, 2025

The Episcopal Church believes that global climate change is not only a scientific concern or environmental issue, but what the United Nations calls "the defining issue of our time... at a defining moment" (UN Secretary General, September 10, 2018). Our Church has passed recent resolutions supporting the phase-out of fossil fuels, and on divesting from fossil fuel companies and reinvesting in clean renewable energy, including in our own facilities and investments.

The proposed Affordability Act seeks to provide an all-encompassing economic justification for renegeing on many of the targets and commitments in the 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act. Extreme weather events and ever more scientific evidence remind us almost daily of the urgency of the climate crisis. In our view, humanity no longer has the luxury of waiting for the right market conditions to transition away from fossil fuels.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee to reject the Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025, and to maintain the ambitious but urgently needed goals and targets that are currently in force.

The Diocese of Maryland requests an unfavorable report.