



Testimony in SUPPORT of SB425

Environment - Coal Combustion By-Products - Fees, Coordinating Committee, and Regulations

Senate - Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

Jose Coronado-Flores , On Behalf of CASA

February 11, 2025

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

CASA is pleased to offer **favorable testimony in support of SB425 - Environment - Coal Combustion By-Products - Fees, Coordinating Committee, and Regulations**. CASA is the largest immigrant services and advocacy organization in Maryland, and in the Mid-Atlantic region, with a membership of over 60,000 active Black and Latino immigrants and working families in Maryland.

In particular, CASA is invested in seeing this bill pass, because our members are residents in communities like Brandywine and Westport. Our members are also overwhelmingly low-income immigrants who have a difficult time accessing health services, which makes them especially vulnerable to the health impacts of these waste sites. We also want to stand alongside communities that have been historic dumping grounds for the waste from dirty energy production.

In the Westport area in Baltimore, the community already knows the air is polluted from nearby industry, waste facilities, and major roads. However, with two coal ash waste sites also in close proximity, the effects of pollution may also be impacting the land and water. SB425 sets to establish a Statewide Coal Combustion By-product Coordinating Committee which will work on necessary data collection and remediation.

We need data and plans to deal with this waste, and SB425 sets out to accomplish this, so that we can be on the real path towards remediation and justice for these communities. For these reasons, CASA urges a favorable report.

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