



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

**Senate Bill 882
Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund
(Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act)**

Date: February 27, 2025
To: Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

Position: **FAVORABLE**
From: Gussie Maguire,
MD Staff Scientist

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 882, which establishes a coal transportation fee and corresponding Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund, to be used for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts of those emissions on Maryland and its residents. Coal dust and climate change disproportionately impact overburdened and underserved communities throughout the state: this bill looks to address that historic injustice by holding polluters financially responsible. Funds could be used for electrification, increasing energy efficiency in buildings, mass transit, and, in direct response to the respiratory health impacts in communities impacted by coal dust, asthma treatment.

According to analysis by researchers at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, the \$13 per short ton fee established by the bill would be more affordable for coal carriers than re-routing to ports in other states, meaning that the fee would be unlikely to deter business coming through the Port of Baltimore. The revenue that would be raised by the bill is estimated to top \$250 million annually. Polluting industries can and should contribute to the cost of repairing the damage they have done to the environment and to public health.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 882.

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

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.