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Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, supports Senate Bill 882.

This bill would impose a coal transportation fee on a person who transports coal in the State to fund a Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund. The fund's purpose is to support activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and their impacts in the State.

MedChi thanks the bill sponsor for ensuring that a portion of the fund will go to asthma treatment programs for communities impacted by coal dust. Coal dust can significantly worsen asthma symptoms and contribute to the development of respiratory issues, including airway irritation, inflammation, increased asthma attacks, and long-term lung damage. Children, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations with pre-existing respiratory conditions are particularly sensitive to coal dust exposure.

MedChi has adopted a Resolution to support state legislation and regulations that move Maryland away from fossil fuel use to pollution-free, renewable energy. Such actions will help the State reap immediate and ongoing health and equity benefits. This bill's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and their public health impacts in Maryland aligns with our Resolution. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on Senate Bill 882.

For more information call:

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