

2025 SB0779 Testimony For 2025-02-27.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

SB0779 – Favorable

Honorable Senators

I support

- Specifying that certain requirements under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 are to be carried out **to the extent economically practicable**, including requirements concerning achieving certain direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions from certain buildings, measuring and reporting direct emissions data to the Department of the Environment, achieving certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, and
- achieving zero-emission vehicle goals relating to the State vehicle fleet and local school buses; etc.

I believe that adding “**to the extent economically practicable**” to the existing law, will allow us to bypass some of the more onerous requirements of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 until there is enough electricity generated by Solar and Wind to allow the jettison of power generated by fossil fuels.

Please enter a favorable report for SB0779.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

Legislative District 30B
February 27, 2025

SB 779 written testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Chip Bertino

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 779

Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Date: Feb. 25, 2025

From: Chip Bertino, Worcester County Commissioner

My name is Worcester County Commissioner Chip Bertino and I'm writing in support of Senate Bill 779, which would give counties more flexibility in meeting the state's climate goals.

The Climate Solutions Now Act provided us with laudable climate goals but little information on the costs associated with moving the state to clean energy. As the substantial financial implications of these changes become clear, I'm grateful that our lawmakers like Senator Gallion have acknowledged the significant expense that comes with reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This bill provides local governments and school systems with more latitude in meeting the state's climate targets. It ensures that compliance with the new standards does not impose an excessive fiscal burden on local governments.

As a local government official, I appreciate this commonsense approach and legislators' support of counties as they partner with the state to move Maryland toward net-zero.

I urge you to provide a favorable report to Senate Bill 779. Thank you for your time.

SB0779_OCChamber_Thompson_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: DENNIS RASMUSSEN

Position: FAV

2/25/2025

SB0779



**Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce**

410-213-0144 info@oceancity.org
oceancity.org 12320 Ocean Gateway, Ocean City, MD 21842

**TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF
THE GREATER OCEAN CITY MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**IN SUPPORT OF:
SB0779 – Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025**

**Before:
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Hearing: 2/27/25 at 1:00 PM**

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 700 regional businesses and job creators, **SUPPORTS Senate Bill SB0779 – Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025**. This legislation would specify that certain requirements under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 are to be carried out to the extent that they are economically practical.

The energy crisis in Maryland has come to a head, and the economic impact to residents and businesses alike is forcing a conversation to balance environmental goals with economic viability of all energy source options being considered. This legislation would ensure the impact upon the rate payer would be considered in the overall conversation regarding energy efficiency and reduction of carbon emissions. Everyone wants a sustainable solution that is good in both the short and long term – this legislation importantly brings the economic impact to the table.

The Greater Ocean City Chamber respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE REPORT for SB0779**. Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly on 410-213-0144 should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Thompson
Executive Director
amy@oceancity.org

Bob Thompson
Legislative Committee Chair
bob@t1built.com

SB0779- CSNA Affordability Act -2025 - FAVORABLE.p

Uploaded by: Ella Ennis

Position: FAV



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman
Maryland Federation of Republican Women
PO Box 6040, Annapolis MD 21401
Email: eee437@comcast.net

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman
And Members of the Education, Energy
and Environment Committee
Senate of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB 779 – The Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025 – **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members,

The 1254 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women support this common-sense amendment to the Climate Solutions Now Act. It will allow adjustments to deadlines for implementing portions of the law applying to housing, greenhouse gas reductions, and electric school-bus purchases “To the extent economically practicable.” Maryland needs to take into account both cost and practical ability to implement.

We are all in shock over the increased cost of electricity. Average people cannot afford \$500 to \$1,000 a month for their electric bill. Low-income people will lose their homes. Forcing all energy to be sourced by emission free-energy sources is both unattainable and unaffordable in the time frames enacted under the Climate Solutions Now Act, the Clean Cars Act and other legislation and regulations enacted in recent years.

We must keep in mind proportionality. Maryland is a small state. It produces .01% of the greenhouse gases produced in the United States. The United States produces approximately 20% of the world’s greenhouse gases. We need balance in our commendable efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions. Balance must be maintained between our goal of zero emissions and the ability of our people to pay their bills and keep their homes and businesses.

Please vote a **FAVORABLE** Report for SB 779.

Sincerely,
Ella Ennis
Legislative Chairman

SB 779_MDCC_Climate Solutions Now Act Affordabilit

Uploaded by: Hannah Allen

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 779

Position: Support

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: February 27, 2025

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 779 (SB 779) ensures that the implementation of climate policies under the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) are carried out to the extent economically practicable.

The Climate Solutions Now Act established the most stringent climate goal in the nation – a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2031 and net-zero by 2045. Since its implementation, Maryland businesses are already facing significant challenges in meeting standards that were set in the CSNA, including the state's Building Energy Performance Standards and other mandates. The financial and operational burdens associated with compliance threaten not only business viability but also the state's broader economic stability.

In 2009, Maryland enacted the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (GGRA), mandating a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2006 levels by 2020 **while explicitly mandating that emissions reduction strategies result in a net positive impact on both the economy and jobs**. SB 779 aligns with this intent by ensuring that Maryland's climate policies remain economically feasible while still advancing environmental goals.

SB 779 introduces necessary economic practicability considerations into requirements for buildings emissions reductions, zero-emission vehicle requirements, and compliance measures for businesses and public entities. This balanced approach will help Maryland achieve its ambitious climate objectives without jeopardizing economic growth or job stability.

The Chamber believes that SB 779 provides the necessary balance between environmental progress and economic feasibility, ensuring that Maryland's climate policies are effective, practical, and supportive of a thriving business environment.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 779**.

Final testimony SB 779 feb 6 25docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Jim Lieberman

Position: FAV

Board of Directors
Leisure World Community Corporation
3701 Rossmoor Boulevard
Silver Spring, MD 20906

**TESTIMONY OF THE LEISURE WORLD COMMUNITY CORPORATION
ON FEBRUARY 27 2025 BEFORE THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE- SB 779 – CLIMATE SOLUTIONS NOW ACT AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2025**

FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair Brian Feldman and Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, the Environment Committee:

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Leisure World Community Corporation. Leisure World is a senior (55+) adult community in Silver Spring Maryland, located on 610 acres. The community was constructed over a 60-year period as a self-contained community and has a wide range of property values. The average age of the residents of Leisure World is 78 and many of these seniors are on limited or fixed incomes that are challenged with the current housing costs.

Leisure World supports the goal of reducing greenhouse gases though it must be recognized that our community faces significant financial challenges in meeting BEPS and associated reporting regulations. At Leisure World there are 32 buildings with over 3000 units that are subject to the Maryland's Building Environmental Performance Standards (BEPS) and impacted by sections 1 and 2 of SB 779.

SB 799 amends Maryland Law Article Environment 2-1602 to include the requirement that building energy performance standards (BEPS) and benchmarking data monitoring and reporting be "to the extent economically practicable." The bill does not define that term but leaves it up to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to define it. It seems reasonable that the definition would take into account the state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to benefits to the public health and safety, and other societal and socioeconomic considerations.

Such an approach would be consistent with the Montgomery County Building Performance Improvement Plan approach to address the failure to meeting BEPS target requirements. This change would allow consideration of aging buildings and their need for infrastructure changes that is required by the existing language in 2-1602(c)(2)(ii)(1). MDE needs to recognize that needed changes cannot always be accommodated within the existing building structures because of sizes of utility closets and building issues such as wiring, electric supply capacity, etc. Pay back issues also need to be considered as changes are costly and must be added to HOA

fees that already are a significant challenge for residents given the age of the buildings and the need to increase reserves for aging roofs and other equipment as a result of increased equipment and labor costs.

Leisure World does not take a position on other aspects of SB 799.

Leisure World Community Corporation urges the Committee to favorably report out SB 779 as it pertains to building performance standards in section 1 and 2 of the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hempstead
Chair of the Board of Directors

MBIA Letter of Support SB779.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV

February 25, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chairman, Education Environment and Energy Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Dear Chair Feldman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

SB779 seeks to specify that certain requirements under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 are to be carried out to the extent economically practicable, including requirements concerning achieving certain direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions from certain buildings, measuring and reporting direct emissions data to the Department of the Environment, achieving certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal and modifies several existing Maryland laws to introduce more flexibility in implementing climate and emissions reduction goals by adding the phrase "to the extent economically practicable" to various requirements.

The bill affects building energy performance standards, requiring a 20% reduction in net direct greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2040, while allowing building owners to consider economic feasibility when measuring and reporting emissions. It also adjusts state greenhouse gas emissions reduction plans, school bus procurement requirements, and state vehicle fleet electrification goals. Specifically, the bill allows county school boards to deviate from zero-emission school bus requirements if they are not economically feasible, sets aspirational targets for state vehicle fleet electrification (100% zero-emission passenger cars by 2031 and other light-duty vehicles by 2036), and modifies electricity procurement goals to require 75% of state facility electricity to come from low-carbon sources by 2030, again with the "economically practicable" caveat. The legislation aims to maintain Maryland's climate goals while providing more pragmatic implementation pathways that consider economic constraints.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback and we would ask the committee for a favorable report on SB779.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Educational Environment and Energy Committee

MCIES LOS SB 779 HB 1451.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Peters

Position: FAV



Bill: SB 779/HB 1451 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions, Inc. (MCIES) is a coalition of diverse stakeholders, including representatives from organized labor, manufacturing, energy production, transportation, and public utilities. Together, we are advocating for the inclusivity of all energy types, including natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, propane, and nuclear power. Please accept this letter in support.

MCIES has been significantly engaged on and concerned with the financial impacts of the BEPS regulations promulgated by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) because of the CSNA. This legislation would include the language "TO THE EXTENT ECONOMICALLY PRACTICABLE" to the CSNA requirements.

The MDE's own estimate of economic impact in the final regulations calculate covered building owners will spend more than \$5.7 billion on efficiency and electrification measures to achieve \$1.2 billion in energy cost savings without an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) standard. Those estimates climb to more than \$15 billion to be spent on efficiency and electrification measures to provide approximately \$9 billion in energy savings with the addition of EUI standards. This estimate was done prior to the July 30, 2024, PJM Interconnection power market auction, which produced a \$269.92/MW-day price for most of the PJM footprint, compared to \$28.92/MW-day for the prior auction (a more than 800% increase).

Including the language prescribed in this legislation will balance environmental objectives with economic realities, preventing undue financial strain on businesses, government entities, and individuals and allows for adjustments based on economic conditions, technological advancements, and resource availability.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

Sarah Peters
Executive Director

SB779_MRA_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Price

Position: FAV

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



SB779 Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025 Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment February 27th, 2025

Position: Favorable

Background: SB779 would require the State to consider economic feasibility when regulating and enforcing the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) strongly supports **SB779 Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025**. As we have shared on other bills related to building energy performance standards (BEPS), the cost of compliance to reach the State's established greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets is staggering. According to feedback provided from our members who have already begun building renovations and equipment upgrades in an effort to achieve compliance, the technology that is currently available is insufficient to reach the established reductions targets. One MRA member operating nine family-owned grocery stores in Maryland has reported that despite spending \$7 million to renovate one location in 2024 and upgrading all lighting and refrigeration equipment in the store, they were only able to achieve a reduction in their emissions of about 15%. Additionally, businesses are currently facing the highest energy costs in five years as a result of both rate increases which were authorized by the State and the passage of SB1 in 2024 which has resulted in many competitive energy suppliers ceasing to operate in Maryland.

Requiring the State to consider economic practicability of compliance for these environmental policies could positively impact businesses that are making a good faith effort to reach reductions goals but are hampered by the cost, availability, and efficacy of equipment. We would strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably on SB779. Thank you for your consideration.

MD 2025 SB 779 Columbia Gas Testimony Final.pdf

Uploaded by: Scott Waitlevertch

Position: FAV



FAVORABLE – Senate Bill 779
Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. (Columbia) supports Senate Bill 779. The legislation amends the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) to require actions mandated by the CSNA to be carried out to “the extent economically practicable”.

This includes requirements concerning achieving certain direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions from buildings, measuring and reporting direct emissions data to the Department of the Environment – the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) regulations, achieving certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, achieving zero-emission vehicle goals relating to the State vehicle fleet and local school buses, and other provisions.

Columbia has been significantly engaged on and concerned with the financial impact to our customers of the BEPS regulations promulgated by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) because of the CSNA. The estimated costs to those who own or operate buildings that are 35,000 square feet or larger in Maryland are staggering.

The MDE’s own estimate of economic impact in the final regulations calculate covered building owners will spend more than \$5.7 billion on efficiency and electrification measures to achieve \$1.2 billion in energy cost savings without an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) standard. Those estimates climb to more than \$15 billion to be spent on efficiency and electrification measures to provide approximately \$9 billion in energy savings with the addition of EUI standards.

These significant costs will ultimately be paid for by all Marylanders, such as residential rental tenants, small business owners who rent space, college students and parents, medical patients at hospitals and offices, parents with children enrolled in pre-school or daycare facilities, senior citizens in a senior living community or care facility, owners of condominium units and Marylanders who buy groceries – just to name some of those impacted by the billions of dollars in new costs that will be incurred due to the BEPS.

Furthermore, MDE’s economic impact study was done prior to the July 30, 2024, PJM Interconnection power market auction, which produced a \$269.92/MW-day price for most of the PJM footprint, compared to \$28.92/MW-day for the prior auction (a more than 800% increase). We are confident the MDE energy costs savings estimates are now overstated as a result of these increasing electricity costs, and the public and Maryland General Assembly should be aware of the new economic impact to building owners.

The amending of CSNA and its requirements to include “to the extent economically practicable” will reduce the cost increases to all Marylanders that will occur with the implementation of BEPS and other CSNA provisions.

Addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a priority for a number of advocacy groups and policymakers. However, such a priority should not come at the expense of damaging the state’s economy and Maryland’s economic competitiveness. Senate Bill 779 is a commonsense approach on this issue.

Columbia believes the requirements of Senate Bill 779 are appropriately and reasonably crafted policies related to reducing the financial impact of CSNA and the BEPS regulations on Marylanders, and therefore supports the legislation.

February 27, 2025

Contact:

Carville Collins
(410) 332-8627

carville.collins@saul.com

Contact:

Scott Waitlevertch
(724) 888-9774

swaitlevertch@nisource.com

SB 779_Chesapeake Utilities_Fav (02-27-25) (Final)

Uploaded by: Steve Baccino

Position: FAV



February 27, 2025

SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
SB 779 – Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Statement in Support

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation ("Chesapeake Utilities") **SUPPORTS** the provisions contained in SB 779, which specifies that certain requirements under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 ("CSNA") are to be carried out to the extent economically practicable. This includes requirements concerning achieving certain direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions from buildings, measuring and reporting direct emissions data to the Department of the Environment (the Building Energy Performance Standards ("BEPS") regulations), achieving certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, achieving zero-emission vehicle goals relating to the State vehicle fleet and local school buses, and other provisions.

Chesapeake Utilities operates natural gas local distribution companies that serve approximately 32,000 customers on Maryland's Eastern Shore in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. These public utilities are regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission and have provided in the coldest months of the year safe, reliable, resilient, and affordable service in the state for decades. As a company, Chesapeake Utilities serves as a positive and informed resource in the ongoing energy and climate change discussions and a driver of economic development and increased employment opportunities. Moreover, Chesapeake Utilities is committed to continuing being part of the solution as Maryland addresses greenhouse gas emissions.

SB 779 Can Help Balance the Costs Relating to the State's Climate Goals. Addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a priority for the State. SB 779 can help balance the environmental objectives and costs relating to the State's net-zero statewide greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions reduction goals with economic realities. Including the language "to the extent economically practicable" to the CSNA will reduce the cost increases of the CSNA, specifically the BEPs requirements, for all Maryland citizens. This will prevent undue financial strain on individuals and businesses, and allow for adjustments based on economic conditions, technological advancements, and resource availability.

The Costs of BEPS is Significant. The significant costs of BEPS is in the billions of dollars and will ultimately impact all Marylanders. The MDE's own estimate of economic impact in the final regulations calculate covered building owners will spend more than \$5.7 billion on efficiency and electrification measures to achieve \$1.2 billion in energy cost savings. This cost estimate is without an Energy Use Intensity ("EUI") standard. In addition, this estimate was done prior to the July 30, 2024, PJM Interconnection power market auction, which produced a \$269.92/MW-day price for most of the PJM footprint, compared to \$28.92/MW-day for the prior auction (a more than 800% increase).



On behalf of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, and our thousands of employees and their families who contribute every day in the communities where they live, work and serve, we respectfully request an favorable vote on SB 779.

Sincerely,

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation
Steve Baccino, Governmental Affairs Director
Contact: sbaccino@chpk.com

MSBCA 2025 SB 779 - Affordability Act Favorable.pd

Uploaded by: Steve Nelson

Position: FAV



February 25, 2025

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman and Members
Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: FAVORABLE - SB 779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland School Bus Contractors Association (MSBCA) supports SB 779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025. MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 19 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions. MSBCA members own and operate over 3,500, or 49% of the school buses transporting school children across the great State of Maryland. MSBCA contracted school buses cover over 53 million miles each year while remaining fully committed to the safety of the students we transport and considers it a privilege to do so.

As you well know, we are facing major challenges transitioning to electric (EV) school buses as mandated by the Climate Solutions Now ACT of 2022. Some of those challenges include performance concerns for long rural routes, battery life and charging in cold weather, an unprepared electric grid infrastructure, the increasing cost of electricity but most importantly the cost of replacing each school bus. To meet the current mandate, it is projected that 500-600 EV school buses will need to be purchased each year. I have enclosed two (2) recent quotes from EV school bus manufacturers confirming the cost of purchasing these buses. A current eco-friendly diesel bus averages \$135,000-145,000. Where an EV school bus ranges from \$360,000-\$388,000. This is more than double.

Maryland school districts that enter into service agreements with MSBCA members do so based on a formula that includes the cost of the vehicle, driver salary, maintenance, fuel, and operating fees. While each school district agreement varies, the cost of converting to new EV school bus is passed on to the individual school districts. In addition, at this time we do not know what the infrastructure costs will be to install the higher tiered electrical needed to reach each bus operator's locations, nor the cost of this electricity.

MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 19 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State.

MSBCA asks that you consider the merits of SB 779 related to school buses and our current state budget challenges. On January 22, 2025, Secretary of the Environment, Serena McIlwain noted in her briefing to this committee a need to postpone the EV mandates for transit vehicles to 2032. Even stating "school systems do not have that kind of money". She is correct, we don't.

Again, MSBCA looks forward to working with the legislators to make Maryland the safest and most efficient state in the country for all our children.

Sincerely,

Steve Nelson

Steve Nelson

President

Maryland School Bus Contractors Association

15 School Circle

Annapolis, MD 21401

202-386-3859

MSBCA serves as the voice of the private school bus companies that contract with local Maryland school systems in 19 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions to own and operate the nearly 3500 contracted school buses that transport schoolchildren across the State.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Gordon Dhue <gdhue@igburton.com>

To: nelsonbuscompany@verizon.net <nelsonbuscompany@verizon.net>

Cc: Wayne Dhue <wdhue@igburton.com>

Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 02:09:03 PM EST

Subject: Bus Pricing 72 Passenger MD buses

Good Afternoon,

The pricing for MD buses that are 72 passengers are as follows:

DIESEL - \$135,553

PROPANE - \$146,023

GAS - \$136,075

EV - \$388,791

These numbers do not include A/C. If you'd like to add A/C to an ICE unit then it will be an additional \$12,000.00. If you add A/C to the EV it'll be \$20,000.

These numbers do not include sales tax, tag, or title fees.

If you have any questions please let me know. My number is 410-443-6058.

Thanks

Gordon Dhue

Bus Sales

i.g. Burton Bus & Truck Center

Mobile: 410-443-6058

gdhue@igburton.com

www.igburtonbuscenter.com



BLUE BIRD

ROUSH
CLEANTECH



i.g. Burton

Since 1908, You can count on us.
411 N. Rehoboth Blvd., Milford, DE 19963

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Mike Tine <mtine@american-bus.com>

To: Steve Nelson - Nelson Bus Company (nelsonbuscompany@verizon.net)
<nelsonbuscompany@verizon.net>

Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 04:27:28 PM EST

Subject: Diesel vs EV Pricing

Good afternoon Steve,

Per our conversation yesterday listed below is the general pricing difference between a 2026 Thomas Saf-T-Liner C2 (diesel vs EV) meeting the general State of Maryland specifications:

- Diesel \$145,000.00 estimated

- EV \$360,000.00 estimated

Please let me know if you need any additional information. Thanks.

Mike



Mike Tine – VP School Bus Sales
(410) 571-1251 Operator (410) 224-8224
"The Bus Professionals"
American Bus Sales & Service
195 Defense Highway, Annapolis, MD 21401
American Rock Hall Service Center
www.American-Bus.com

SB0779_DNR_OPP-EEE-2-27-25.pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Wilson

Position: UNF



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 27, 2025

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 779 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: OPPOSE

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The Department opposes the proposed legislation as it adds, but does not define, “to the extent economically practicable” to each outstanding provision within the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, which would provide implementing agencies and companies the discretion to determine what the phrase means when implementing the goals established in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, and thus risk the State not meeting said goals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (SB528) passed setting greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for Maryland and was enacted under Article II, Section 17(b) of the Maryland Constitution - Chapter 38

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill makes several amendments to the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 that require the development of energy performance standards, and statewide greenhouse gas emission goals, be implemented to the extent economically practicable. The bill also allows county boards to purchase and use school buses that are not zero-emission vehicles if it is not economically practicable. Furthermore, the International Green Construction Code would be implemented to the extent economically practicable.

Contact: Emily Wilson, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services (Acting)
emilyh.wilson@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8426 (office) ♦ 443-223-1176 (cell)

MDE SB779 OPP.pdf

Uploaded by: Jeremy D. Baker

Position: UNF



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 779
Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025***

Position: Oppose
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Date: February 27, 2025
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** SB 779.

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 779 would modify Maryland's Environment Article laws to include the phrase "to the extent economically practicable" into various requirements. The bill inserts this language into the mention of existing law relating to building energy performance standards (BEPS) as well as other sections of greenhouse gas reduction laws.

Position Rationale

Senate Bill 779, as drafted, would not impact MDE as the Department always considers economic impacts in all proposed policies. However, in the legislation, there is no definition of "economically practicable" and therefore leaves ambiguity as to its interpretation. Therefore, potentially exposing the Department to legal challenges if an unreasonable interpretation is used.

Under Environment Article § 2-1206, MDE is required to produce plans to meet the state's climate change mitigation goals that will not only be economically practicable, but will be economically beneficial by producing net economic benefits to the State's economy and an increase in jobs. MDE estimated significant economic benefits would be created for Marylanders due to the policies included within the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan that was published in December 2023. One policy in the BEPS plan is expected to save Marylanders complying with the regulations an estimated \$4.5 billion by 2050. The Climate Pollution Reduction Plan's new policies as a whole were estimated to create \$1.2 billion in public health benefits, \$2.5 billion in increased personal income, and a net gain of 27,400 jobs by 2031.

Accordingly, MDE respectfully requests the Committee give an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT** to SB 779.

SB779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Ac

Uploaded by: Joseph Jakuta

Position: UNF

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Testimony on: SB 779 - "Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025"
Organization: Climate Parents of Prince George's
Person Submitting: Joseph Jakuta, Lead Volunteer
Position: Unfavorable
Hearing Date: February 27, 2025



Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering our testimony to SB 779, "Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025." Climate Parents is a campaign to reduce climate change-causing pollution in our schools, and our group is active in Prince George's County. In particular, we recently worked directly with Prince George's County Public Schools technical staff and advocates to develop a first-in-the-nation School Climate Change Action Plan.

First, we wanted to say we understand the reasoning for this legislation given our budget circumstances, but we are greatly concerned that there are no guardrails on claiming that a decision isn't economical and that they would need to be in place for this legislation not to harm the progress we need to make as Marylanders towards a sustainable future. Our comments are focused on the amendments proposed to 2-1505, but these specifics would appear to be generalizable to all of the amendments in the bill.

One guardrail that is not in place is how operating costs are considered. There are known maintenance and fuel cost savings from electric school buses that would accrue if life cycle costs are looked at, but not if only upfront capital costs are considered in an economic decision. Any consideration of economic feasibility must be strictly from a life-cycle perspective and that is not specified in this legislation.

Another guardrail that is not in place is a requirement to consider the negative health impacts on students and their economic costs. Diesel pollution is known to circulate throughout the cabin and leads to asthma attacks and worse learning outcomes. The former of these impacts can have a direct economic impact on students in terms of the need for hospital visits and lost learning days.¹ Any consideration of economic feasibility must include the health benefits in terms of economics for the students and that is not specified in this legislation.

A final guardrail that is not in place is a requirement to consider the economic benefits of vehicle to grid technology. School buses are often idled throughout the summer months when solar production is at its highest and the batteries on electric school buses can be used to a grid storage resource, which can receive financial compensation. In fact the General Assembly passed a pilot program to put this to a test as part of the Climate Solutions Now Act. The direct financial benefits of using buses in an electricity market need to also be considered and that is not clear in this legislation.

In the end if proper guardrails are put into this legislation, this could help with the edge cases, where electric school buses do not make sense yet, but as written this bill would appear be creating a loophole that would help to avoid a transition that needs to be made rather than surgically allowing for edge cases.

We encourage an **UNFAVORABLE** report for this important legislation.

2025 - SB 0779 - Climate Solutions Now Affordabili

Uploaded by: Ken Phelps Jr

Position: UNF



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.

SB0779 - UNF - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordabi

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: UNF



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB 779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

DATE: February 27, 2025

MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE

This bill specifies that requirements under the Climate Solutions Now Act be carried out to the extent that they are economically feasible.

The Climate Solution Now Act of 2022 set Maryland as a national leader by providing necessary goals to reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). These goals included:

- Setting Maryland's GHG reduction goals to 60% by 2031 and a net-zero statewide GHG by 2045.
- Establishing a Building Energy Performance Standard
- Incorporating long-term and ongoing electric distribution planning to facilitate decarbonization
- Requiring a state agency to consider the long-term climate and equity impacts of its policies.

This bill goes against the State's GHG reduction targets, and ignores the long-term financial benefits of investing in renewable energy, including job creation, energy security, and reduced healthcare costs associated with pollution-related illnesses. The law already requires the development and implementation to produce a net economic benefit to the state and a net increase in jobs.¹ Weakening Maryland's GHG reduction targets will have significant and negative consequences.

For the reasons stated above, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, directly at megan.outten@maryland.gov, 443-842-1780).

¹Md. Code, Envir. § 2-1206(8)(vii)

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Laws/StatuteText?article=gen§ion=2-1206&enactments=False&archived=False>

SB0779_MDSierraClub_opp_27February2025.pdf

Uploaded by: Mariah Shriner

Position: UNF



SIERRA CLUB

MARYLAND CHAPTER

P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Testimony on: SB 0779, Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Position: Oppose

Hearing Date: February 27, 2025

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges an unfavorable report on SB 779. This bill addresses the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, and adds the words “to the extent economically practicable” to 11 different provisions of existing law.

The Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) was enacted in 2022 and is a landmark policy that provides a roadmap to protect Marylanders’ health and minimize our climate impact. In addition to establishing a goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 60% by 2031 and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2045, the bill established the Building Energy Performance Standard (BEPS) and many more important provisions relating to just transition of fossil fuels, school bus electrification, building electrification and efficiency, and environmental justice.

Sierra Club supports climate policies that benefit not only the environment, but also support our economy and protect Maryland most vulnerable to environmental harms. We also support the use of cost-benefit analysis and other tools to achieve balanced policy. **While we appreciate the intent of this legislation, we oppose SB 779 as an overly broad, misguided attempt to revisit the language passed in 2022.**

The CSNA already includes significant cost-benefit analysis, and requires that the state's climate plan must "produce a net economic benefit to the State’s economy and a net increase in jobs in the State". The CSNA also has other provisions to require net-positive economic benefits. The CSNA utilizes different tools of analysis and decision making for different processes, which include new regulations, creating a state climate plan, workgroups, and more.

Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, released in December 2023, found that the included “new policies will generate up to \$1.2 billion in public health benefits, \$2.5 billion in increased personal income, and a net gain of 27,400 jobs between now and 2031 as compared with current policies. Average households will save up to \$4,000 annually on energy costs.”¹ Amending CSNA as SB 779 proposes could disrupt and delay several processes underway.

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club urges an unfavorable report on SB 779.

Mariah Shriner
Climate Campaign Representative
Mariah.Shriner@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

¹ Page 4. MDE, Maryland’s Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, December 28, 2023.

SB 779 - CBF - UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: UNF



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 779 Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Date: February 27, 2025	Position: UNFAVORABLE
To: Education, Energy, & Environment Committee Finance Committee	From: Gussie Maguire, MD Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 779, which would specify that some provisions of the landmark Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 are to be carried out “to the extent economically practicable”. The Climate Solutions Now Act was a carefully-crafted piece of legislation adopted to set a long-term plan for addressing climate change’s impact on Maryland. Now is not the time to backtrack on our climate commitments.

Climate change has immediate and drastic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay, many of which are already being witnessed. Warmer climates translate into warmer waters, which decrease dissolved oxygen, exacerbating the Bay’s fish-killing “dead zones” and contributing to algal blooms. Rising water temperatures stress fish and reducing the populations from the Bay’s iconic striped bass to brook trout. Other temperature-sensitive species such as eel grass, a critical habitat plant, are at risk.

Atmospheric deposition of nitrogen is the highest nitrogen input load in the Chesapeake Bay. Nitrogen pollution feeds algal blooms that block sunlight to underwater grasses and suck up life supporting oxygen when they die and decompose. The principal source of oxidized nitrogen, also called NO_x, is produced by machines or processes that are powered by gas, coal or oil, like the heating of a building¹.

While policymakers cannot be blind to the economic condition of State government, private businesses, and individual Marylanders, the fact is climate change is a pressing threat to Maryland. With an uncertain leadership outlook at the Federal level, it is more important than ever for the State to exercise leadership to mitigate the impacts of climate change and make sensible, sustainable changes to reduce our greenhouse gas impacts.

CBF urges the Committee’s UNFAVORABLE report on SB 779.

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

¹ Chesapeake Bay Program, [Air Pollution: What airborne pollutants are affecting Bay health?](#)

2025 - SB 0779 - Climate Solutions Affordability A

Uploaded by: Patrick Crump

Position: UNF



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.

SB 779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability A

Uploaded by: Rebecca Rehr

Position: UNF



MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

Kim Coble
Executive Director

2025 Board of
Directors

Patrick Miller, Chair
The Hon. Nancy Kopp,
Treasurer
Kimberly Armstrong
Caroline Baker
Joe Gill
Lynn Heller
Charles Hernick
The Hon. Steve Lafferty
Bonnie L. Norman

February 27, 2025

OPPOSE: SB 779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Chair Feldman, Chair Beidle, and Members of the Committees:

Maryland LCV opposes SB 779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025.

Maryland LCV opposes actions that would undermine the state's commitments to its climate goals and ultimately its goals for public health and a clean economy future. Maryland LCV was actively involved in the passage of, and now in the implementation of, the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA).

We recognize that the solutions outlined in the CSNA and the Climate [Pollution Reduction Plan](#) require up-front investments, but these investments yield benefits and savings in different parts of the economy that offset such upfront costs. Introducing the economic feasibility language in SB 779 creates additional barriers for state agencies to overcome to comply with the CSNA and implement strategies that help meet our state goals. Focusing on the economic feasibility of these initiatives discounts important considerations like long-term public health benefits. As an alternative approach, the state should focus on passing innovative revenue generating bills like the Coal Dust Clean Up and Asthma Mitigation Fund, SB 882, which would significantly contribute to the full implementation of the CSNA.

Full implementation of the state's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, reducing greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2031, is projected to generate substantial economic and public health benefits. This includes up to \$1.2 billion in public health benefits and \$2.5 billion in increased personal income. Amending the CSNA through SB 779 by incorporating the language "to the extent economically practicable" introduces unnecessary and new uncertainties that hinder the state's ability to fully achieve the climate and health goals essential to adequately protecting our state and our residents.

The General Assembly made a commitment to Maryland when they set climate targets and passed the CSNA. This is not the time to limit its strength and allow solutions to delay further and allow costly climate change impacts to compound. It is a critical time to take actions that reduce climate change impacts, thereby improving public health outcomes. Maryland LCV urges an unfavorable report on this bill.

2025-MML-SB779-Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Tyler Brice

Position: UNF



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 27, 2025

Committee: Senate – Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill: SB779 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025

Position: Unfavorable

Reason for Position:

On behalf of the Maryland Municipal League (MML), representing 161 local governments across the state, we respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 779. While we understand the importance of addressing climate change and promoting sustainability, we believe that the mandates outlined in this bill place an undue burden on local governments and may have unintended consequences for municipalities, particularly in terms of implementation and costs.

SB 779 requires local governments to comply with stringent greenhouse gas reduction targets, including the transition to zero-emission school buses and the adoption of new building performance standards. While these goals are commendable, they are not always feasible within the fiscal and operational constraints of local governments. The financial burden of retrofitting buildings, purchasing zero-emission vehicles, and meeting other requirements could be significant, particularly for smaller municipalities that already face budgetary challenges. These costs are often unpredictable and can strain local resources, potentially leading to increased taxes or cuts to essential services.

The bill's provision requiring municipalities to report direct emissions data to the state annually starting in 2025 introduces additional administrative burdens without clear guidance or financial support for local governments to meet these reporting requirements. The lack of flexibility in the implementation timeline, especially for zero-emission vehicles, disregards the capacity of local governments to transition their fleets in a cost-effective and timely manner. For many municipalities, the upfront cost of transitioning to zero-emission school buses could be prohibitive without significant state funding or support.

The Maryland Municipal League strongly **opposes** SB 779 as it imposes significant unfunded mandates on local governments without providing the necessary resources or flexibility for their successful implementation. While we fully support efforts to address climate change, we urge the committee to reconsider the timelines and fiscal impact

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

of this bill on local governments. We believe that a more collaborative approach, which considers the unique challenges faced by municipalities, is essential for achieving Maryland's climate goals in a way that is both sustainable and equitable for all jurisdictions. ***We respectfully urge the committee to issue an unfavorable report on SB 779.***

For more information, please contact Tyler Alexis Brice, Manager of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at tylerb@mdmunicipal.org or 254-652-8110.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.

47 State Circle, Suite 403 Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(410) 295-9100 www.mdmunicipal.org