

Bill: <u>HB1088</u> - Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund (Coal

**Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act)** 

Hearing Date:March 11, 2025 Bill Sponsor: Delegate Stein

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation **Submitting:** Liz Feighner for HoCo Climate Action

Position: Favorable

<u>HoCo Climate Action</u> is a <u>350.org</u> local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the <u>Climate Justice Wing</u> of the <u>Maryland Legislative Coalition</u>.

Howard County Climate Action supports **HB1088**, **Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund (Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act)**, which will provide a fair and practical solution to address the health and environmental impacts of coal transport through our state.

By creating a dedicated funding source on coal transported through Maryland, we can better support communities that have long borne the burden of coal pollution. This bill will create a dedicated Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund to address pollution impacts and direct 40% of revenue to support overburdened and underserved communities affected by coal transport. It also provides \$5 million annually for asthma treatment programs targeting residents living along coal transport Routes and generates approximately \$300 million per year for climate programs.

Fighting climate change and mitigating the effects of climate change are expensive propositions and are especially difficult when Maryland has a constrained budget. This bill provides additional funding which can further our leadership in climate solutions, support equitable energy access, and protect our natural resources for future generations.

We urge a **favorable report on HB1088**.

Howard County Climate Action
Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee
<a href="https://www.HoCoClimateAction.org">www.HoCoClimateAction.org</a>
<a href="https://www.HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com">HoCoClimateAction@gmail.com</a>