



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 902

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

Date: March 11, 2025	Position: FAVORABLE
To: Environment & Transportation Committee	From: Matt Stegman,
Economic Matters Committee	MD Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 902, the Coal Ash Cleanup and Accountability Act. The bill will ensure that coal ash material is responsibly managed and regulated, that there is appropriate oversight of cleanup efforts, and the financial resources exist to address this ongoing environmental and public health concern.

HB 902 takes a comprehensive approach to addressing coal ash regulation and cleanup. First, the bill requires the State to act swiftly and finalize regulations within 12 months to adopt the May 2024 EPA guidance on coal ash disposal and effluent. Next, it expands groundwater monitoring requirements to include known contaminants that pose significant risk to aquatic life and human health, including boron and chromium. Further, the bill establishes a coordinating committee to oversee cleanup efforts. Finally, the bill reforms the coal ash cleanup fee structure to generate an estimated \$3.2 million annually that would cover ongoing enforcement and remediation efforts.

There are at least 70 coal ash disposal sites across the state of Maryland that account for more than 50 million tons of waste material. This is a pressing problem that requires State action to protect our vulnerable waterways, especially those in environmentally overburdened communities.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 902.

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.