



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1088**

**Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund**

**Environment and Transportation Committee and  
Economic Matters Committee**

**FAVORABLE**

TO: Delegate Marc Korman, Chair; Delegate Regina Boyce, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee; and

TO: Delegate C.T. Wilson, Chair; Delegate Brian Crosby, Vice-Chair; and the Members of the House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Rev. Kenneth Phelps, Jr., The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

DATE: March 7, 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).

The Episcopal Church is committed to advocating for and supporting legislation that directly addresses climate change's impacts on environmental justice communities.

Our General Convention affirms that no community, especially communities living in poverty, should bear the heaviest burden of environmental pollution or degradation.

Coal traveling through Maryland creates significant air pollution, affecting the health of residents living along transport routes. Additionally, the burning of coal creates greenhouse gas emissions and is contrary to fighting climate change. We support this bill because it will charge a fee of \$13 per ton of coal transported through Maryland. These fees will be paid into a dedicated Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund to address pollution impacts, with 40% of revenue channeled to support overburdened and underserved communities affected by coal transport. It will also provide \$5 million annually for asthma treatment programs targeting residents living along coal transport routes. At a time when the state faces a severe budget deficit, this bill will generate approximately \$300 million per year for climate programs.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland urges the competent Committees to support the Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund, to protect those communities harmed by our dependence on dirty fossil fuels.

The Diocese of Maryland requests a favorable report.