



HB1088

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

Testimony before Environment and Transportation

Hearing March 11, 2025

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Co-Chair Boyce, and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, and I represent the 900+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of HB1088**, which will impose a coal transportation fee on a person that transport coal in the State. We thank Delegate Stein and his colleagues for sponsoring this bill.

Coal traveling through Maryland creates significant air pollution, affecting the health of residents living along transport routes, while the burning of coal works against the State's climate goals by creating more greenhouse gas emissions. This bill will build on an already successful program that charges a fee on oil transport by establishing a fee of \$13 per ton of coal transported through Maryland and creates a dedicated Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund to address pollution impacts. It also bolsters the State's goal of supporting Environmental Justice by directing 40% of the revenue generated to support overburdened and underserved communities affected by coal transport and provides \$5 million annually for asthma treatment programs targeting residents living along coal transport. In this time of budget shortfalls, this bill will generate approximately \$300 million per year for much needed climate programs.

This legislation provides a fair and practical solution to address the health and environmental impacts of coal transport through our state. The dedicated funding source created will allow us to better support communities that have long borne the burden of coal pollution.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Virginia Smith
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