



HB1258 - UNFAVORABLE

Frances Stewart, MD

Elders Climate Action Maryland

frances.stewart6@gmail.com

301-718-0446

HB1258, Energy Equality Act of 2025

Meeting of the Environment and Transportation Committee

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Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I strongly urge an unfavorable report on HB1258, the Energy Equality Act of 2025.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know that Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, cleaner future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

This bill seeks to undermine that transition and undo the progress we have made in making transportation and buildings cleaner and more energy efficient. Not only would it exacerbate climate change, it would also increase the particulate matter and NOx pollution that threaten our health. It would even hinder efforts to fight noise pollution, like Montgomery County's ban on gas-powered leaf blowers.

The idea behind this bill seems to be that all the sources of energy it names are equal, but the truth is that fossil fuels are dangerously polluting. They are also costly. Fossil fuel vehicles and appliances are less efficient and cost more to

operate. Those costs add up over the life of the equipment, which may be more than twenty-five years.

We want our children and grandchildren to have a future with a stable climate, clean air, and less noise. For all of these reasons, we strongly urge an unfavorable report on HB1258.

Thank you.