



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 1258

Consumer Goods – Restrictions Based on Energy Source – Prohibition (Energy Equality Act of 2025)

Position: Opposition
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: March 6, 2025
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** HB 1258.

Bill Summary

HB 1258 establishes restrictions on state and local governments' ability to limit consumer goods based on their energy source. The definition of consumer goods under the bill includes items primarily used for personal, household, family, or agricultural purposes, which applies to motor vehicles, appliances, and other tangible products. HB 1258 prohibits any local or state government from restricting the sale, purchase, or use of consumer goods solely because of the energy source powering them. Energy source is broadly defined to include electricity, gasoline, natural gas, propane, and other federally authorized fuel sources.

Position Rationale

House Bill 1258 proposes harmful pollution-increasing changes to Maryland's Commercial Law, the Environment Article, and the Transportation Article that would create an administrative burden across agencies with sustainability and climate initiatives. HB 1258 would increase litigation risk and resource burdens on MDE by increasing the likelihood of lawsuits over any regulation reducing pollution from consumer products, allowing opponents to argue that such regulations are based on the energy source. If interpreted broadly by the courts, HB 1258 could prohibit MDE from regulating sources commonly subject to its jurisdiction. HB 1258 would greatly hinder MDE's overall mission of protecting public health and the environment for the well-being of all Marylanders.

MDE respectfully requests the Committee give an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT** to HB 1258.

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