

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers
1014 Dockser Drive
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3/4/2025

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB1088: Coal Transportation Fee and Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund (Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act)

Dear Delegates,

We oppose and respectfully request that you vote unfavorably on this bill.

We support Delegate Chisholm's logic on this issue:

"The title "Coal Dust Cleanup and Asthma Remediation Act" is deeply misleading. While the bill imposes a \$13 fee on coal transportation, with revenue going into a new Fossil Fuel Mitigation Fund, only 2% of the funds will be used for asthma treatment in coal-impacted communities. The other 98% will fund energy efficiency projects and electrification—pet projects unrelated to the communities the bill claims to help. The title suggests action on coal dust and asthma, but in reality, the bill prioritizes broader extreme environmental goals over the real needs of affected residents that primarily live next door in Curtis Bay and in my district."

These bills, that promote these policies, are harming us, not helping us, and all for an agenda that a small margin of Marylanders want. We believe that the deceit of where the money from this fee actually goes further erodes the trust we have in our government. We question who is benefiting and how?

WHO IS BEHIND THESE BILLS? ARE THEY REQUESTS FROM MARYLAND CITIZENS? If not, then are they from outside lobbyists, special interest groups and federal agencies pushing the "clean/green agenda"? THEY DON'T HAVE A STAKE IN OUR STATE, (except perhaps to line their own pockets) and should not be influencing Maryland legislators to promote bills that strip away quality of life and economic stability for our citizens.

We expect you to PUT MARYLANDERS FIRST and vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers