

Written Testimony of Kim Chambers
Submitted to the Health and Government Operation Committee
On HB0340

Climate Change - Attorney General Actions, Climate Change Restitution Fund, and Climate Change Restitution Fund Advisory Council

Members of the Health and Government Operation Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit my written testimony to the committee in opposition to HB0340, "Climate Change - Attorney General Actions, Climate Change Restitution Fund, and Climate Change Restitution Fund Advisory Council."

You should oppose HB0340 for the following reasons:

1. The Attorney General will unchecked, unlimited authority to bring lawsuits on energy companies that are publicly traded. These suits could extend out for many, many years, which will waste the Maryland courts time and will not focus on more important Judicial matters.
2. The establishment of the Climate Change Restoration Fund, will, quite likely, misappropriate public funds. The funds received from settlements from these suits could create an advisory committee. This committee will have the power to distribute the monies received wherever they want, which may not provide any benefits directly to Marylanders.
3. Regarding the legal battles, there will be no benefits for taxpayers, local businesses and workers. Also, this could negatively impact, investments, economic growth, employment opportunity and businesses growth due to the legal uncertainty of threats of lawsuits from the already established publicly traded energy companies. New companies searching for an opportunity in Maryland will look elsewhere. Companies already established may shutter their doors, shoving Maryland further down the road of economic ruin.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage the members of this committee to give this bill an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your time,

Kim Chambers