



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman  
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The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
And Members of the Health and  
Government Operations Committee  
Maryland House of Delegates  
Annapolis, Maryland

Re: HB 340 - Climate Change – Attorney General Actions, Climate Change Restitution Fund, and  
Climate Change Restitution Fund Advisory Council - **OPPOSED**

Dear Chairman Pena-Melnyk and Members,

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women oppose HB 340 because it will very likely increase the cost of gas for consumers and reduce its availability. Consumers will ultimately pay for the cost of these lawsuits both through our taxes for any prosecutions and for any settlements through the rates paid for gas or oil products.

The proposals in this legislation are punitive and lay all blame for pollution on the producers and sellers of fossil fuels and none to the State government that authorized their sale and use in the State. Natural gas, while producing some greenhouse gas emissions, is much cleaner than coal or oil. Prosecuting a company or other organization for fraud and deception is one thing. Suing them civilly and/or criminally for “any other mechanism, action, inaction or practice” is excessive.

We should be guided not by desire for retribution but by fairness. Everyone participated in using fossil fuels. Does not the State Government still use them? Is the State not complicit in continuing to pollute the atmosphere by not immediately eliminating their use? We have not eliminated their use because it is not possible at this time. Over the years, people have used gas as an efficient way to keep from freezing in the winter, and gas was preferable to coal.

Please give HB 340 an **UNFAVORABLE** Report

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis

Legislative Chairman