



## House Bill 903

**Position: Support**

Committee: House Judiciary

Date: February 27, 2025

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Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 903 prohibits the state, a local government, or an agency of state or local government from filing an action for monetary damages or alleged damages against a business for the adverse effects of global warming or climate change in Maryland.

Maryland businesses continue to make significant investments in clean energy, sustainability, and environmental compliance, yet there are increasing efforts to assign financial liability to private companies for climate change damage through litigation. These lawsuits fail to recognize that climate change is a global challenge requiring comprehensive policy solutions, not punitive legal actions against businesses that operate within the bounds of state and federal laws.

Importantly, courts around the country – including recently in the Anne Arundel and Baltimore City cases – have ruled against climate-related lawsuits. Courts have ruled that these lawsuits are preempted by federal law. The Clean Air Act grants federal authority over greenhouse gas regulation, and state- and local-level litigation attempting to impose liability on businesses for lawful activities violate constitutional protections.

Beyond their legal flaws, these cases impose an unnecessary financial burden on taxpayer resources. Other states pursuing litigation have spent millions defending their laws, only to see them struck down in court. Maryland would face significant legal expenses with no guarantee of revenue. Meanwhile, the uncertainty created by these lawsuits discourages investment, job creation, and economic growth, increasing costs for Maryland businesses and consumers.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on HB 903.