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February 10, 2026

SUPPORT: HB437 - Transportation Climate Alignment Act of 2026

Chair Barnes, Chair Korman and Members of the Committees:

Maryland LCV strongly supports HB437 - Transportation Climate Alignment Act of 2026, and we thank Delegate Edelson for his ongoing leadership and commitment to this issue. This bill is a top priority for Maryland LCV as well as the community represented by the Maryland Community Coalition for the Environment (CCE).

Communities across the state face transportation challenges, whether it's high traffic and the pollution that accompanies vehicle emissions, or lack of access to public transit or infrastructure. As the state faces a significant budget shortfall for the second straight year, it is essential that every transportation dollar is spent in a way that best meets the needs of communities impacted by the projects.

The Transportation Climate Alignment Act of 2026 ensures that communities impacts are considered in the planning of major transportation projects.

HB 437 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to measure the greenhouse gas emissions of all major transportation projects, and align the state's capital transportation budget with Maryland's climate goals, as required by the Climate Solutions Now Act. For major highway expansion projects over $100 million, MDOT must offset pollution with cleaner transportation options - like public transit, bike paths, and pedestrian infrastructure - and prioritize investments in overburdened and underserved communities. These mitigation measures make the projects better, more responsive to community needs, and reduce our state's greenhouse gas emissions. The transportation sector remains the leading source of emissions in Maryland

In addition to improving air quality by reducing vehicle emissions, this bill ensures that more Marylanders will have access to more affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation options, providing greater access to jobs, education, healthcare and other amenities that promote community cohesiveness. Simultaneously, this investment in public transit, walking and

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biking infrastructure offers relief to families for whom vehicle ownership is the second highest annual cost after housing. According to RMI, Maryland households could save as much as $3,000 annually by reducing their reliance on single-passenger vehicles, and increasing their use of other transportation options. Beyond the cost benefits to individual Marylanders, investment in public transit, walking, and biking infrastructure supported by the Transportation Climate Alignment Act would make a meaningful contribution to addressing Maryland's fiscal health. New analysis by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) shows Maryland could achieve approximately $550 million per year in net savings by 2050 by building out a multimodal transportation network. Net savings account for both construction and ongoing maintenance costs.

HB437, the Transportation and Climate Alignment Act would make Maryland a leader, along with Minnesota and Colorado, in forward-thinking, sustainable, community-focused transportation policy. We appreciate the leadership of the Appropriations and Environment and Transportation Committees, as well as the House of Delegates, in passing this legislation in both 2024 and 2025. **We strongly urge swift action to issue a favorable report.**