



**HoCoClimateAction.org**  
Howard County, Maryland

**[SB0058/ HB0161](#) - Property Tax Credit – Retail Service Station Conversions**

**Hearing Date: January 21, 2026**

**Bill Sponsor: Senator Brooks**

**Committee: Budget and Taxation**

**Submitting: Liz Feighner for Howard County Climate Action**

**Position: Favorable**

[HoCo Climate Action](#) is a [350.org](#) local chapter and a grassroots organization representing approximately 1,400 subscribers. We are also a member of the [Climate Justice Wing](#) of the [Maryland Legislative Coalition](#). Our organization works with residents and ally organizations to promote a safe climate and clean energy future.

We urge you to vote favorably on **Property Tax Credit – Retail Service Station Conversions, [SB0058/ HB0161](#)**, which incentivizes the redevelopment of former gas stations to other uses. A clean-energy future will transition away from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles. We need to prepare for a future when gas stations will go out of business. Because it is so difficult and costly to convert a service station from its original use, due to the required remediation of the underground storage tanks, many will remain abandoned and an eyesore for the communities.

This bill incentivizes the redevelopment of these underused properties by allowing local jurisdictions to enact a property tax credit that would be used to remediate the underground hazards so they could be converted to other uses. It provides a 50% match by the state to offset the property tax, reducing the impact to the local jurisdictions. The provisions apply when a site is redeveloped for new, eligible uses.

Maryland's obligation to reduce carbon emission includes the transition away from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles. Over the next decade, this bill will make it easier to reduce the number of abandoned gas stations across the state and allow those properties to be redeveloped for more productive purposes.

We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Howard County Climate Action

Submitted by Liz Feighner, Steering and Advocacy Committee

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