



**TESTIMONY FOR HB161  
PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – RETAIL SERVICE STATION  
CONVERSIONS**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Ruth

**Committee:** Budget and Tax

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0161 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Over the next decade, we will have to ensure that many more retail service stations close as we make our transition to clean energy and stop using fossil fuels to power our vehicles. Because it is so hard to convert a service station from its original use, due to the required remediation of the storage tanks below-ground, many service stations just remain abandoned as an eyesore for the communities they are located in, and preventing them from being converted to other uses.

This bill would allow local jurisdictions to enact a property tax credit that would be used to remediate the hazards below-ground at service stations so they could be converted to other uses. It provides a 50% match by the state to offset the property tax, so the impact to the local jurisdiction is reduced.

This will help make the transition away from using gas to power our vehicles easier and will help reduce the number of abandoned gas stations across the state, and allow those properties to be utilized more productively.

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