



**Testimony on:** SB0590- Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act  
**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Submitting:** Phil Webster  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 26, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0590 – Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on SB0590.

Maryland is falling short in meeting its climate targets, while the impacts of climate change are intensifying. At the same time, Maryland families face rising energy costs. An economy-wide cap-and-invest program could help address these challenges. Cap-and-invest is a market-driven solution that sets a declining cap on emissions, requires polluters to acquire and retire emission allowances, and invests the money from allowance sales back into the economy to make it cleaner and more equitable for all Marylanders.

Maryland already participates in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) cap-and-invest program for electricity. The Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommended a study of an economy-wide cap-and-invest program in its 2024 and 2025 recommendations.

This study would inform whether expanding cap-and-invest beyond electricity could be an environmentally and economically helpful approach and, if so, how to design such a program effectively and equitably. The study would be paid for out of Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) funds, with those funds paid back from cap-and-invest revenues if the program is implemented.

Cap-and-invest could potentially raise as much as \$1 billion per year. These revenues could be invested in: (1) reducing energy bills, particularly for low- and moderate-income households, through rebates, energy efficiency, etc.; (2) reducing emissions; (3) enhancing resilience of the state's economy, communities, and ecosystems to climate impacts and extreme weather; and (4) workforce development.

If designed well, cap-and-invest could reduce emissions, lower energy bills, support workers, and reinvest billions into Maryland's economy.

For all these reasons, we urge this Committee to give SB0590 a FAVORABLE report.

350MoCo  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Climate Law and Policy Project  
Climate Parents of Prince George's  
Climate Reality Project  
ClimateXChange  
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
Echotopia  
Elders Climate Action Maryland  
Fix Maryland Rail  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
HoCoClimateAction  
IndivisibleHoCoMD  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Maryland Third Act  
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund  
Mobilize Frederick  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Progressive Maryland  
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland