



## Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

### Testimony in Support of SB 590 Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program (Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act)

TO: Chair Feldman and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment  
Committee  
FROM: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate for the Climate  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.  
DATE: February 26, 2026

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports **SB 590 - Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program - (Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act)**. We are a faith-based advocacy organization based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) Values, including Interdependence (honoring the interdependent web of all existence) and Justice (where all feel welcome and can thrive). Working to mitigate, adapt to, and build resilience for climate change is central to our beliefs. The **Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act** aligns with both of these values.

The **Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act** directs the Maryland Department of the Environment, in coordination with other agencies and stakeholders—including the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities—to study what an economy-wide cap-and-invest program could look like for Maryland and to assess its potential impacts.

Addressing the climate crisis requires reducing carbon pollution, the vast majority of which comes from fossil fuels. Cap-and-invest is a proven, market-based approach that sets a declining cap on greenhouse gas emissions, requires polluters to purchase and retire emission allowances, then reinvests the proceeds into programs that make the economy cleaner and more equitable.

For polluters, emission allowances increase the cost of pollution while creating strong incentives to transition to clean energy sources such as wind, solar, and battery storage. The equity provisions of the bill incentivize investing the revenues in ways that would advance climate justice by including overburdened and underserved communities with a meaningful “seat at the table” during the study process.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a FAVORABLE report on **SB 590**.

*Phil Webster, PhD*

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