



TESTIMONY TO: SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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

POSITION: Support

By: Linda T. Kohn, President

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Since the emergence of the environmental movement in the 1970's, the League of Women Voters has advocated for policies that protect our planet and promote public health. The League believes in increasing energy efficiency and transitioning to predominant reliance on renewable energy sources. Establishing emissions cap programs is an important tool for reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **supports SB 590**, which would require the Department of Environment (MDE), in collaboration with other relevant agencies, to study and develop a report on the potential design and implications of an economy-wide cap-and-invest program.

Maryland law requires the state to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, and the Maryland Department of the Environment's [2023 Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#) identifies an economy-wide cap-and-invest program as a potential strategy to reduce the state's emissions, while providing a sustainable funding source to pay for other climate initiatives. SB 590 would ensure that policymakers have the detailed analysis necessary to determine whether and how such a program could help Maryland achieve its climate commitments.

This study would also examine how revenue generated under a cap-and-invest program could be used to benefit Marylanders. This could include lowering household energy bills through rebates or efficiency upgrades, expanding clean energy and transportation options, supporting workforce development, and strengthening community resilience to climate impacts. Importantly, the study would identify ways to ensure that low-income households are protected from any net increase in costs under a future program.

The League of Women Voters of Maryland **strongly urges a favorable report on SB 590.**