

HB0663_CrossOver_Bill_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#/0663 – FAVORABLE

Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Reporting

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover bill HB#0663, Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Reporting

The Federal Government is totally abandoning its responsibility to protect the environment.

As reported by Nature Magazine *US repeals key ‘endangerment finding’ that climate change is a public threat - Overturning the 2009 decision will lead to billions of extra tons of greenhouse-gas emissions over the next three decades.*¹

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has revoked [the ‘endangerment finding’, a cornerstone of the nation’s efforts to curb emissions of planet-heating greenhouse gases.](#) Its reversal means that, for the first time in 17 years, the EPA will no longer consider greenhouse gases a threat to public health and welfare. EPA head Lee Zeldin said the move would save the United States money by removing excess regulations, but critics say it will endanger more lives as [climate change intensifies.](#)

The landmark 2009 endangerment finding served as the legal underpinning for US regulations to limit emissions. For now, the EPA is capitalizing on the repeal to roll back emissions rules for cars, trucks and other vehicles, but might later apply it to other sectors, such as power production. By several estimates, ending vehicle regulations alone will add billions of tons of [greenhouse gases](#) to the atmosphere in the coming decades.

Maryland refuses to acquiesce with this dangerous decision. We can accomplish keeping our air cleaner and protected from greenhouse gases by passing this bill. This bill will require, beginning on or before July 1, 2026, and every 6 months thereafter, the Department of the Environment to report to the General Assembly on any changes in federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions that have been deemed legally valid by a final decision of a federal court and, if there has been a change in federal policy, on the steps the State is taking to respond to that change.

The General Assembly can use the reporting to draft legislation to react to and respond in a responsible manner based on actual scientific data and conclusions.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0663.

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-00455-6>