



SB0590

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

Testimony before Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

Hearing February 26, 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman and Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Peter Alexander, and I represent the 1700+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today **in support of SB0590**, the **Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act**, which will require MDE to conduct a study to understand how an economy-wide cap-and-invest program for Maryland might be structured and what effects it might have. We thank Senator Kramer for introducing this bill.

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 emission levels, 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 RGGI cap-and-invest program for electricity. 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 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.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

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