



TESTIMONY FOR HB0663

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

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Rosenberg

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0663 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members do not generally support bills that require state agencies to provide additional reporting unless that reporting is crucial to providing much needed data that will facilitate problem solving. This bill is all about reporting, but we believe that it will help the General Assembly take appropriate steps to ensure that changes in federal greenhouse gas emissions policy do not hurt Marylanders.

The bill requires the Department of the Environment (MDE) to create a twice-yearly report on any legally valid changes to federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions including changes that –

- Rescind a finding that the greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles and engines cause air pollution
- that may endanger public health or welfare
- repeal greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles and engines
- repeal greenhouse gas emissions standards for stationary sources

It also requires the MDE to state what steps they are taking to offset these changes. We believe that this is important information that will allow the General Assembly to act in a timely manner to ensure that Maryland continues its necessary work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.