



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 79

Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026

Date: February 4, 2026

To: House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: Opposed

From: Gussie Maguire

MD Staff Scientist

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES House Bill 79**, which would specify that some provisions of the landmark Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 are to be carried out “to the extent economically practicable”. The Climate Solutions Now Act was a carefully crafted piece of legislation adopted to set a long-term plan for addressing climate change’s impact on Maryland. Now is not the time to backtrack on our climate commitments.

Climate change has immediate and drastic impacts on the Chesapeake Bay, many of which are already being witnessed. Warmer climates translate into warmer waters, which decrease dissolved oxygen, exacerbating the Bay’s fish-killing “dead zones” and contributing to algal blooms. Rising water temperatures stress fish and reducing the populations from the Bay’s iconic striped bass to brook trout. Other temperature-sensitive species such as eel grass, a critical habitat plant, are at risk.

Atmospheric deposition of nitrogen is the highest nitrogen input load in the Chesapeake Bay. Nitrogen pollution feeds algal blooms that block sunlight to underwater grasses and suck up life supporting oxygen when they die and decompose. The principal source of oxidized nitrogen, also called NOx, is produced by machines or processes that are powered by gas, coal or oil, like the heating of a building¹.

While policymakers cannot be blind to the economic condition of State government, private businesses, and individual Marylanders, the fact is climate change is a pressing threat to Maryland. With an uncertain leadership outlook at the Federal level, it is more important than ever for the State to exercise leadership to mitigate the impacts of climate change and make sensible, sustainable changes to reduce our greenhouse gas impacts.

CBF urges the Committee’s UNFAVORABLE report on HB 79

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

¹ Chesapeake Bay Program, [Air Pollution: What airborne pollutants are affecting Bay health?](#)