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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
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Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee
In Support of
House Bill 663
Department of the Environment –
Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Reporting

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

“We’ll be less safe, less healthy, and less able to fight climate change.” This is how former President Obama characterized the effect of last week’s decision by the Trump administration to rescind the endangerment finding.

Without the endangerment finding, almost two decades of progress to fight climate change can, and will, be swiftly eroded. The Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, commonly known as the endangerment finding, was the foundation on which much of the federal government’s restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation, power plant, and oil and gas industries were built.

House Bill 663 was originally conceived as a precautionary measure to guard against the uninformed deregulatory inclinations of the federal government that would make Marylanders less safe. Now, with the endangerment finding being reversed, the Environmental Protection Agency’s budget being cut, fossil fuel development ramping up, and the United States’ exit from the Paris Climate Agreement—again—House Bill 663 is more urgent now than ever.

The Trump administration has made their indifference to greenhouse gas emissions abundantly clear. However, Maryland must respond to this indifference. Before this Committee and the General Assembly take policy action, it is important that we have the most up-to-date

information about all of the regulatory gaps that need to be filled. House Bill 663 accomplishes this goal by requiring biannual reports about changes to federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions from now until the end of the Trump administration.

In the American Lung Association's State of the Air report, 13 out of 15 Maryland counties whose air quality data was reviewed were given a grade of C or lower. The 3 most populated counties—Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore County—were given grades of D, F, and F, respectively. This finding illuminates that greenhouse gas emissions are a very present threat to the health and well-being of Marylanders.

Our state has no room for regression. While the Trump administration is looking out for the interests of polluting industries, this committee and the General Assembly have a responsibility to look out for everyday Marylanders. We do not have the luxury of inaction because the next generation of Marylanders are looking to us to protect them from the harm posed by greenhouse gas emissions.

In the interest of making Maryland *more* safe, *more* healthy, and *more* able to fight climate change, I urge the committee to report FAVORABLE on House Bill 663.

February 18th, 2026