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February 4, 2026

**OPPOSE: HB 79 - Climate Solutions Affordability Act 2026**

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV Opposes HB 79 Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026.

Maryland LCV opposes actions that would undermine the state's commitments to its climate goals and ultimately its goals for public health and a clean economy future. Maryland LCV was actively involved in the passage of, and now in the implementation of, the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA).

The solutions outlined in the [Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#) require up-front investments, which yield benefits and savings in different parts of the economy that offset such upfront costs. Introducing the economic feasibility language in HB 79 creates additional barriers for state agencies to overcome as they are complying with the CSNA and implementing strategies that help meet our state goals. Focusing only on the short-term economic feasibility of these initiatives discounts important considerations and economic benefits like long-term public health improvements.

However, affordability absolutely needs to be a consideration, especially as energy, medical, and grocery bills are rising. As an alternative approach, the state could focus on advancing innovative revenue-generating policies that support full implementation of CSNA, reduce harmful pollution, and deliver public health benefits, rather than add new procedural hurdles that could impede critical action.

Full implementation of the state's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, which includes reducing greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2031, is projected to generate substantial economic and public health benefits. This includes up to \$1.2 billion in public health benefits and \$2.5 billion in increased personal income, as well as \$2,600-\$4,000 dollars in household energy savings annually.

The General Assembly made a commitment to Maryland when they set climate targets and passed the CSNA. This is not the time to limit its strength, nor to allow solutions to delay further while costly climate change impacts compound. It is a critical time to take actions that reduce climate change impacts, thereby improving public health outcomes. Maryland LCV urges an unfavorable report on this bill.

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