



## HB1199

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

Testimony before House Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing March 4, 2026

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Korman and Co-Chair Guyton, and members of the committee, my name is Virginia Smith, 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 HB1199**, which would require the Department of the Environment with other entities to complete a study and develop a report evaluating the potential design and implications of implementing an economy-wide cap-and-invest program that will help the State achieve emissions reductions and provide a sustainable funding source for certain initiatives. We thank Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for introducing this bill.

It is imperative that states, such as Maryland, lead the charge on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Maryland is currently aiming to be net-zero carbon by 2045, but it is falling short of reaching that goal. The State must try all options to reach the goal and to prevent, as much as possible, the impacts of climate change. Cap and trade across the economy is a market-driven method to reduce GHG emissions, and studying it as an option is imperative. The State has already seen success from the RGGI cap-and-invest program, and it makes sense that cap and trade would only improve our reductions. Implementing cap and trade further would not only reduce GHG emissions, but could also raise over \$1 billion yearly, which could be used to lower energy bills.

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.**

Virginia Smith  
Columbia 21044  
District 12A