



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 1525 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, EmPOWER Energy Efficiency Programs, and Net Energy Metering

Date: March 10, 2026
To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: UNFAVORABLE
From: Gussie Maguire,
MD Staff Scientist

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **OPPOSES House Bill 1525** which withdraws Maryland from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and removes incentives for utility companies to establish energy conservation and efficiency programs in support of greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

Maryland is already facing extreme impacts of climate change. From catastrophic flooding in Westernport to extreme heat in urban centers to saltwater inundation on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, anthropogenic climate change has cost the state lives, livelihoods, and millions of dollars¹. Often, overburdened and underserved communities and individuals are most at risk for these harmful outcomes. As a cap-and-invest program, RGGI has helped the state work towards its emissions reduction goals by capping emissions and requiring fossil fuel-fired power plants to purchase allowances to meet that cap—forcing polluters to pay for their harmful climate impacts.

Withdrawing from RGGI would weaken Maryland's ability to meet its ambitious climate goals, which reflect the high proportion of state residents and assets at risk of flooding, drought, fire, and other consequences of refusal to manage greenhouse gas emissions.

CBF urges the Committee's UNFAVORABLE report on HB 1525.

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

¹ [Center for Climate Integrity: Maryland Climate Impacts and Costs](#)