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March 4, 2026

**Support: HB 1199 - Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act**

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV Supports HB 1199 - Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act and we thank Delegate Fraser-Hidalgo for his leadership on this issue.

Maryland LCV strongly supports actions that advance Maryland's climate goals while delivering tangible benefits for public health, household budgets, and a clean-energy economy. HB 1199 directs the state to study an economy-wide cap-and-invest program within the state, including how such a program could be designed to protect households from negative health impacts stemming from carbon emissions, generate revenue for clean energy and efficiency investments, and reduce energy burden - particularly for low-income and overburdened households.

Maryland's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a cap and invest program among 10 states, demonstrates that a declining emissions cap paired with strategic reinvestment can reduce carbon pollution while generating revenue to fund a clean energy economy. Since joining RGGI in 2007, [Maryland has generated more than \\$1.6 billion in auction proceeds](#). These funds, invested through the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF), support energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy deployment, bill assistance, and weatherization programs that lower energy costs for households and businesses, often prioritizing low-income and overburdened communities. In addition to lowering bills, these investments improve public health by reducing harmful co-pollutants associated with fossil fuel generation.

While Maryland has made important progress toward its emissions goals, according to the [latest analysis](#) the state is falling behind on its target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% below 2006 levels by 2031. This points to a need to reevaluate the state's approach to meeting those targets, and the critical importance of new revenue generation to support these reductions. An economy-wide cap-and-invest program offers a sensible and appropriate route for getting Maryland on track with its GHG reduction goals, and the resulting health improvements

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and economic growth. This bill is in alignment with the official [recommendations from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change](#) for the state to develop an economy-wide cap-and-invest program. The state's [Climate Pollution Reduction Plan](#) also includes an economy-wide cap-and-invest program as the mechanism to bridge the gap between sector-specific reductions and the final targets.

At a time when electricity affordability is a growing concern and climate impacts are intensifying, Maryland should build on proven models that both reduce pollution and support households. HB 1199 provides an opportunity to evaluate how an economy-wide cap-and-invest program can help the state meet its climate targets while protecting ratepayers. Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on this bill.