

The Honorable Marc Korman

Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

House Office Building, Room 251

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for HB 0079, Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026

Dear Chair Korman,

Maryland Latinos Unidos strongly supports House Bill 0079, the Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026. HB 0079 is under consideration by the House Environment and Transportation Committee and addresses the rising cost burdens associated with climate policy and environmental transition.

HB 0079 integrates affordability considerations into Maryland's climate solutions framework, ensuring that climate mitigation and adaptation efforts do not disproportionately burden low income households. The bill recognizes that climate change and climate policy intersect directly with household costs related to energy, transportation, housing, and utilities.

Latino and immigrant communities are on the front lines of climate vulnerability. Many families live in areas more exposed to flooding, extreme heat, and environmental hazards, while also facing higher energy burdens relative to income. Rising utility costs and climate related infrastructure expenses can exacerbate housing instability and economic stress for families already struggling with affordability.

By centering affordability, HB 0079 helps ensure that climate progress is equitable and inclusive. Policies that lower emissions while protecting household budgets are essential for sustaining public trust and preventing environmental solutions from deepening inequality. The bill aligns environmental responsibility with economic justice.

The implications for Latino and immigrant Marylanders are substantial. Affordable climate solutions reduce displacement risk, support healthier living conditions, and promote long term community stability. MLU can help ensure that implementation reflects community needs by engaging residents in outreach, advocating for language accessible programs, and supporting equitable distribution of climate related benefits.

Maryland Latinos Unidos urges a favorable report on HB 0079. Addressing climate change must also mean addressing cost of living pressures, and this legislation moves Maryland toward a fairer and more sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Carlos Orbe, Jr.

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