



## House Bill 517

Date: February 18, 2026

Committee: Environment & Transportation

**Position: Information**

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Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 517 (HB 517) would alter the provisions of law relating to the authority of a political subdivision to adopt ordinances, rules, or regulations that set emission standards or ambient air quality standards under certain conditions.

We believe policies impacting infrastructure and environmental standards should be addressed at the state level to ensure a consistent and predictable regulatory framework for businesses and residents alike. A statewide approach prevents a patchwork of local regulations that could create uncertainty for businesses and impede the development and maintenance of critical infrastructure. When critical projects are subject to varying and potentially conflicting local requirements, the result can be higher costs, delays, and challenges in meeting the state's long-term economic and environmental goals.

It is not clear if the bill intends to codify or expand powers and authority that local governments already have, however it is important to assess whether this is necessary and what potential unintended consequences they may create.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments on **HB 1058**.