



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

Testimony in Support of SB 432 - Attorney General Actions and Climate Crimes Accountability Fund (Climate Crimes Accountability Act)

TO: Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Phil Webster, PhD, Lead Advocate for the Climate
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.
DATE: February 10, 2026

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports **SB 432 - Attorney General Actions and Climate Crimes Accountability Fund - (Climate Crimes Accountability Act)**. We are a faith-based advocacy organization based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) Values, including Interdependence (honoring the interdependent web of all existence) and Justice (where all feel welcome and can thrive). Working to mitigate, adapt to, and build resilience for climate change is central to our beliefs. The **Climate Crimes Accountability Act** aligns with both of the values by assigning responsibility for climate change and its expensive cost and impacts to the lives of all Marylanders, especially those who are forced to live in overburdened and underserved communities.

“Exxon Lied” is a familiar refrain when discussing climate change and its impacts on the lives of billions of people around the world. And it is not just Exxon but literally dozens of national and international Corporations. Research indicates Exxon knew about the risks of climate change as early as the 1970s, with their own scientists accurately predicting global warming trends. Despite this, reports show the company publicly cast doubt on climate science for decades to protect its business interests, funding climate deniers and engaging in disinformation.

And now, the impacts are becoming obvious. Today across our state, heavier rains, higher tides, and record heat are damaging our lives and infrastructure. Last year, Governor Moore stated that Maryland needs \$1B per year for mitigation, resilience, and adaptation. The **Climate Crimes Accountability Act** can provide these necessary funds without making Marylanders bear the financial burden. Failure to adopt the **Climate Crimes Accountability Act** is effectively a steadily increasing tax on Marylanders to pay for the impacts of Climate Change.

Maryland needs to hold those responsible for climate change to account! We urge a FAVORABLE report on **SB 432**.

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