



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 79
Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2026***

Position: Oppose

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Date: February 4, 2026

From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** HB 79.

Bill Summary

House Bill 79 would modify Maryland's Environment Article to require various existing laws regarding reductions in statewide greenhouse gas emissions only be carried out "to the extent economically practicable."

Position Rationale

House Bill 79 does not include a definition of "economically practicable," which leaves ambiguity in its interpretation. Therefore, MDE may be at a higher risk of legal challenges if an unreasonable interpretation is used.

Maryland is required under Environment Article § 2-1206 to produce plans to meet the State's emissions reduction goals that are not only economically practicable, but are economically beneficial by producing net economic benefits to the State's economy and an increase in jobs. MDE estimated that significant economic benefits would be created for Marylanders under the policies included within the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan published in December 2023. The Plan's new policies are estimated to create \$1.2 billion in public health benefits, \$2.5 billion in increased personal income, and a net gain of 27,400 jobs by 2031.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **UNFAVORABLE** report for HB 79.