

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



HB79 Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2026 Environment and Transportation Committee February 4, 2026

Position: Favorable

Background: HB79 would require the State to consider economic feasibility when regulating and enforcing the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) strongly supports **HB79 Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2025**. As we have shared before on the subject of building energy performance standards (BEPS), the cost of compliance to reach the State's established greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets is staggering. According to feedback provided from our members who have already begun building renovations and equipment upgrades in an effort to achieve compliance, the technology that is currently available is insufficient to reach the established reductions targets. One MRA member operating nine family-owned grocery stores in Maryland has reported that despite spending \$7 million to renovate one location in 2024 and upgrading all lighting and refrigeration equipment in the store, they were only able to achieve a reduction in their emissions of about 15%. Requiring the State to consider economic practicability of compliance for these environmental policies could positively impact businesses that are making a good faith effort to reach reductions goals but are hampered by the cost, availability, and efficacy of equipment.

Establishing a standard of economic practicability with regard to other statewide efforts to reduce emissions would also be appropriate when considering the cost of compliance and the ongoing budgetary challenges facing the State.

For these reasons, MRA would strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably on HB79. Thank you for your consideration.