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Legislative District 15  
Montgomery County

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

Chair, Non-Energy Utilities  
Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony:** HB0817 - Carbon Removal Technology and Practices - Regulations and Use of Funding

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation Committee

**Hearing Date:** February 25, 2026

**Position:** Favorable

Good afternoon Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Linda Foley and am presenting HB0817 - Carbon Removal Technology and Practices - Regulations and Use of Funding.

Maryland is leading the charge to fight climate change by setting ambitious climate goals such as a 60% reduction in emissions by 2031 and reaching Net-Zero by 2045. To reach Net-Zero, the math is simple but the execution is hard. For every bit of carbon we cannot stop emitting from our heavy sectors like electricity or transportation, we must remove an equal amount from our atmosphere. Carbon removal technologies will bring us one step closer.

Carbon removal technologies encapsulates a variety of types of engineered processes where carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and then stored underground. Some of these methods include wood vaults, direct air capture with carbon storage and biochar carbon removal.

However, Maryland currently faces regulatory challenges. Our innovators and green-tech business owners are finding that their carbon removal processes, which are designed to clean our air, are being regulated under solid waste rules designed for trash and landfills. This is unsuitable and creates a barrier to entry for a burgeoning industry.

HB817 provides two key solutions. First, it creates regulatory certainty. It begins by establishing regulations under title 2, which regulates Ambient Air Quality since carbon removal addresses pulling carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Second, it allows state funds to be used toward carbon removal projects, without mandating any specific amount or process.

We don't need to look far to see potential. There are projects in Carroll County through Scaling Up Biochar, and on the panel, Mark Smith from Carbon Country has projects in Charles County and Dr. Ning Zeng from the Carbon Lockdown Project has a project near the Potomac River. These projects demonstrate the importance of creating regulation to encourage more projects.

Maryland is not acting in a vacuum. Other states are already seizing this opportunity. In 2022, California passed a bill directing the California Air Resource Board to create regulations for carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration (CCUS) and carbon dioxide removal (CDR) projects and technology.<sup>1</sup> Our neighbor Pennsylvania enacted the Carbon Capture and Sequestration Act of 2024 declaring that carbon dioxide storage to be in the public interest and providing a regulatory framework for the underground storage of carbon dioxide dealing.<sup>2</sup> In 2024, assisted by the passing of the act, Pennsylvania had two new carbon removal projects funded in Lancaster and Bethlehem. In fact, the Pennsylvania law states that these types of technologies are in the public interest.

As new technologies emerge we must meet the demands of the moment, and as these engineered systems continue to advance they should be properly regulated. These companies and technologies already exist and are going to continue to exist, so why not create the necessary framework to enable these companies to use these technologies, helping us meet our goals. In the fight against climate change, we must use every tool in our arsenal to help meet our ambitious goals.

To ensure full transparency, I must clarify that this bill is a work in progress as we continue collaborating with the Maryland Department of the Environment. After our most recent meeting, we are working toward creating a bill that enables the use of these types of technologies through amendments. However, this bill marks a vital step toward ensuring Maryland remains a leader in the fight against climate change.

I urge a favorable report on HB817.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB905](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB905)

<sup>2</sup> <https://cdriaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Penn-SB831-Carbon-Capture-and-Sequestration-Act.pdf>