

LAUREN ARIKAN
Legislative District 7B
Harford County

Judiciary Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 414
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3334 · 301-858-3334
800-492-7122 Ext. 3334
Fax 410-841-3336 · 301-858-3336
Lauren.Arikan@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Delegate Marc Korman

251 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY- HB673

Consumer Goods - Restrictions Based on Energy Source - Prohibition

(Energy Equality Act of 2026)

Dear Chair Korman, vice chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

HB 673 would prohibit a local government or unit of State government from restricting the sale, purchase, or use of a certain consumer good solely on the basis of the energy source used to power the consumer good. HB 673 would also repeal provisions of law requiring the Department of the Environment to establish and maintain a certain low emissions vehicle program as well as repeal provisions of law requiring the Department to establish requirements for the sale of new zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles; and applying the Act retroactively.

In essence, this bill ensures that local and state governments cannot ban or restrict the sale, purchase, or use of consumer goods based on their energy source. This allows consumers to choose the most cost-effective and efficient products for their lives and businesses and ensures protections for consumer choice, economic freedom, and energy diversity. Additionally, access to multiple energy sources prevents market manipulation and shortages and protects consumers from being forced into costly alternatives before infrastructure is ready.

HB 673 preserves competition and innovation in the energy and consumer goods market and protects jobs in industries reliant on diverse energy sources. HB 673 also protects consumer rights, energy affordability, and economic stability by preventing bans on specific energy sources which encourages market-driven energy policies rather than government mandates.

For these reasons I urge a favorable report for HB 673 to protect consumer choice and prevent government overreach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren C. Arian". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delegate Lauren C. Arian