



Testimony on: HB1199 - Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act

Committee: Environment and Transportation Committee

Organization: Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing

Submitting: Phil Webster

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: March 4, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB1199 – Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program Maryland Climate Crisis Equity Act. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on HB1199.

Maryland is falling short in meeting its climate targets, while the impacts of climate change are intensifying. At the same time, Maryland families face rising energy costs. An economy-wide cap-and-invest program could help address these challenges. Cap-and-invest is a market-driven solution that sets a declining cap on emissions, requires polluters to acquire and retire emission allowances, and invests the money from allowance sales back into the economy to make it cleaner and more equitable for all Marylanders.

Maryland already participates in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) cap-and-invest program for electricity. The Maryland Commission on Climate Change recommended a study of an economy-wide cap-and-invest program in its 2024 and 2025 recommendations.

This study would inform whether expanding cap-and-invest beyond electricity could be an environmentally and economically helpful approach and, if so, how to design such a program effectively and equitably. The study would be paid for out of Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) funds, with those funds paid back from cap-and-invest revenues if the program is implemented.

Cap-and-invest could potentially raise as much as \$1 billion per year. These revenues could be invested in: (1) reducing energy bills, particularly for low- and moderate-income households, through rebates, energy efficiency, etc.; (2) reducing emissions; (3) enhancing resilience of the state's economy, communities, and ecosystems to climate impacts and extreme weather; and (4) workforce development.

If designed well, cap-and-invest could reduce emissions, lower energy bills, support workers, and reinvest billions into Maryland's economy.

For all these reasons, we urge this Committee to give HB1199 a FAVORABLE report.

350MoCo

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders

Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Law and Policy Project
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Project
ClimateXChange
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
IndivisibleHoCoMD
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Third Act
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland