

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**  
**Testimony on: HB0066 Environment — Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Withdrawal (Restoring Energy Freedom Act)**  
**Submitted by: Donald M. Goldberg, Executive Director**  
**Position: Opposed**  
**Hearing Date: February 10, 2026**

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express Climate Law & Policy Project's opposition to HB0066 Environment — Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Withdrawal (Restoring Energy Freedom Act).

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cooperative regional cap-and-invest program among several Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states (including Maryland) that covers the electric power sector and sends the revenues from allowance auctions back to each state for investment. Since RGGI's launch in 2009, emissions have reduced in RGGI states by more than 50%, and its auctions have generated more than \$9 billion in proceeds. Maryland alone has received more than \$1.6 billion in RGGI auction proceeds.

Each RGGI state has discretion in how it invests auction proceeds, but as a whole, as of 2023, Maryland's investments generally have gone towards energy efficiency (56% of cumulative investments), clean and renewable energy (12%), emissions abatement and climate adaptation (7%), beneficial electrification (5%), and direct bill assistance (15%). In 2023, around 36% of state investments went towards environmental justice and equity, including clean transportation, electrification infrastructure, and low-income rate relief, weatherization, and efficiency.

RGGI money flows into Maryland's Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF). As of 2023, Maryland had directed 48% of RGGI funds to direct bill assistance, 28% to energy efficiency, 8% to clean and renewable energy, and 10% to emissions abatement and climate adaptation. In 2023, Maryland RGGI investments included low-income bill payment, low- and moderate-income energy efficiency programs, state and city energy efficiency projects, clean transportation, solar incentives, research and development, and more.

Overall, RGGI has been a great boon to Maryland, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants, lowering electricity bills, and supporting beneficial clean energy programs in the state.

We urge the committee to keep RGGI working for Maryland by rejecting HB0066.