



Bill: HB 79 - Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026

Position: Support

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions, Inc. (MCIES) is a coalition of diverse stakeholders, including representatives from organized labor, manufacturing, energy production, transportation, and public utilities. Together, we are advocating for the inclusivity of all energy types, including natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, propane, and nuclear power. Please accept this letter in support.

MCIES has been significantly engaged on and concerned with the financial impacts of the BEPS regulations promulgated by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) because of the CSNA. This legislation would include the language "TO THE EXTENT ECONOMICALLY PRACTICABLE" to the CSNA requirements.

The MDE's own estimate of economic impact in the final regulations calculated that covered building owners will spend more than \$5.7 billion on efficiency and electrification measures to achieve \$1.2 billion in energy cost savings without an Energy Use Intensity (EUI) standard. Those estimates climb to more than \$15 billion to be spent on efficiency and electrification measures to provide approximately \$9 billion in energy savings with the addition of EUI standards. MDE's economic impact study was conducted before two PJM Interconnection power market auctions that caused a 1000% increase in electric capacity prices. We believe the MDE's energy cost savings estimates are overstated due to these rising electricity costs.

Including the language prescribed in this legislation will balance environmental objectives with economic realities, preventing undue financial strain on businesses, government entities, and individuals and allows for adjustments based on economic conditions, technological advancements, and resource availability.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your support.

Sincerely,

Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Energy Solutions, Inc.