

Testimony For HB0079

Honorable Delegates

Please enter a favorable report for HB0079.

I support specifying that certain requirements under the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 are to be carried out “**to the extent economically practicable**”, including requirements concerning

- achieving certain direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions from certain buildings,
- measuring and reporting direct emissions data to the Department of the Environment,
- achieving certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, and
- achieving zero-emission vehicle goals relating to the State vehicle fleet and local school buses;

It makes no sense to follow many of the objectives of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 if it is going to destroy the Maryland economy. While these may be noble goals, they may not be technically feasible by the dates listed in the law. By imposing these actions prematurely, it can cause businesses and citizens to leave the state for jurisdictions without these impractical goals.

By adding the phrase, “**to the extent economically practicable**”, in numerous places, it would provide practical guardrails as Maryland implements the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. While the state has set ambitious environmental goals, residents, small businesses, and employers continue to face rising energy costs.

Rather than undoing existing law, HB0079 adds clarity by requiring that certain mandates be carried out “**to the extent economically practicable.**” This standard ensures policies are implemented in a way that accounts for available technology, reasonable costs, and broader economic and social impacts.

This approach is widely used by federal regulators, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and reflects a balanced, fact-based method of policymaking. By aligning ambition with feasibility, HB0079 helps ensure Maryland’s energy transition remains achievable, responsible, and sustainable for the long term.

Please enter a favorable report for HB0079.

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February 2, 2026 makes no sense to