



Maryland Energy Administration

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: HB 79 - Climate Solutions Now Act Affordability Act of 2026
DATE: February 4, 2025

MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE

This bill specifies that requirements under the Climate Solutions Now Act be carried out to the extent that they are economically feasible.

The Climate Solution Now Act of 2022 set Maryland as a national leader by providing necessary goals to reduce the State's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). These goals included:

- Setting Maryland's GHG reduction goals to 60% by 2031 and a net-zero statewide GHG by 2045;
- Establishing a Building Energy Performance Standard;
- Incorporating long-term and ongoing electric distribution planning to facilitate decarbonization; and
- Requiring a state agency to consider the long-term climate and equity impacts of its policies.

This bill goes against the State's GHG reduction targets, and ignores the long-term financial benefits of investing in renewable energy, including job creation, energy security, and reduced healthcare costs associated with pollution-related illnesses. The law already requires the development and implementation to produce a net economic benefit to the state and a net increase in jobs.¹ Weakening Maryland's GHG reduction targets will have significant and negative consequences.

For the reasons stated above, MEA urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, directly at megan.outten@maryland.gov, 443-842-1780).

¹Md. Code, Envir. § 2-1206(8)(vii)

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Laws/StatuteText?article=gen§ion=2-1206&enactments=False&archived=False>