



HB0066 - UNFAVORABLE
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HB0066 Environment - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Withdrawal

Meeting of the Environment and Transportation Committee

February 10, 2026

Dear Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, on behalf of Elders Climate Action Maryland, I urge an unfavorable report on HB0066.

Elders Climate Action is a nationwide organization devoted to ensuring that our children, grandchildren, and future generations have a world in which they can thrive. The Maryland Chapter has members across the state.

Each day, we see the climate crisis more clearly. We know that Maryland is at risk for sea level rise, flooding from intense rainfall, heat waves, and other extreme weather events. Maryland can also be a leader in moving us to a safer, cleaner future where we all can thrive. The clean energy transition is an essential part of that future.

One of the most effective ways Maryland has reduced greenhouse gas emissions and supported the clean energy transition is through our longstanding participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

The cleanest, cheapest energy is the energy we don't need to use. RGGI has helped Maryland improve energy efficiency, resulting in decreased electricity demand despite a growing population and economy. It has encouraged the growth of clean, affordable renewable energy. Those improvements have allowed

consumers in the RGGI states to save over \$1 billion in energy costs. It has created thousands of jobs and added over \$4 billion in economic value. And it has dramatically reduced pollution.

Carbon pollution from the electricity sector has been cut by more than half. It has also reduced emissions of many other dangerous pollutants – mercury, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter.¹ Our cleaner air brings many health benefits, especially for our children.² An analysis by Abt Associates³ in 2017 showed

Maryland

Table 7. Avoided Health Effects in MD due to RGGI

Health Endpoint	Cases Avoided due to RGGI						Total
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Acute Bronchitis	24	3	1	7	12	7	54
Adult Mortality	16 - 36	2 - 4	1 - 2	5 - 10	8 - 17	5 - 11	36 - 81
Asthma ER Visits	10	1	<1	3	5	3	23
Asthma Exacerbations	469	55	26	132	220	134	1,036
Cardiovascular Hospital Admissions	5	1	<1	2	3	2	12
Infant Mortality	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Lower Respiratory Symptoms	310	36	18	89	148	91	692
Minor Restricted Activity Days	13,196	1,560	759	3,815	6,347	3,862	29,538
Non-fatal Heart Attacks	1.6 - 15	0 - 2	0 - 1	0 - 4	1 - 8	1 - 5	4 - 34
Respiratory Hospital Admissions	4	<1	<1	1	2	1	9
Upper Respiratory Symptoms	443	52	25	127	212	130	987
Work Loss Days	2,213	261	127	639	1,063	647	4,950

Their economic analysis suggested that avoiding those infant deaths was worth between \$ 880,000 and \$1,000,400, but we believe most parents and grandparents would say it was priceless.

This bill’s shortsighted attempt to withdraw Maryland from RGGI would not help to solve the affordability crisis. It would seriously damage our health and our economy and exacerbate the climate crisis. For all of these reasons, we strongly urge an unfavorable report on HB0066.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ “The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Is a Model for the Nation,” July 14, 2021, <https://www.nrdc.org/resources/regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative-model-nation>.

² Frederica Perera et al., “Co-Benefits to Children’s Health of the U.S. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative,” *Environmental Health Perspectives* 128, no. 7 (2020): 077006, <https://doi.org/10.1289/EHP6706>; “RGGIHealthStudyExecutiveSummaryJan2017,” n.d.

³ “Analysis of the Public Health Impacts of RGGI 2009-14 Appendix - State Level,” n.d., accessed February 4, 2026, <https://www.abtglobal.com/sites/default/files/files/Projects/RGGI%20state%20level%20results.pdf>.

