

# **HB0663\_Department\_of\_the\_Environment\_Federal\_Polic**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY FOR HB0663

### Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Reporting

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Rosenberg

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0663 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our members do not generally support bills that require state agencies to provide additional reporting unless that reporting is crucial to providing much needed data that will facilitate problem solving. This bill is all about reporting, but we believe that it will help the General Assembly take appropriate steps to ensure that changes in federal greenhouse gas emissions policy do not hurt Marylanders.

The bill requires the Department of the Environment (MDE) to create a twice-yearly report on any legally valid changes to federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions including changes that –

- Rescind a finding that the greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles and engines cause air pollution
- that may endanger public health or welfare
- repeal greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles and engines
- repeal greenhouse gas emissions standards for stationary sources

It also requires the MDE to state what steps they are taking to offset these changes. We believe that this is important information that will allow the General Assembly to act in a timely manner to ensure that Maryland continues its necessary work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

**HB0663.pdf**

Uploaded by: Heather Constantine

Position: FAV

*HB0663*

FAV

*Heather Skinner Constantine*

*201 Blenheim Road, Baltimore, MD 21212  
Heatherconstantine1@gmail.com*

I am providing this testimony in favor of HB0663. I am horrified at the legislation that the EPA is reversing. It will be devastating to our planet. I worry about my children and my children's children. I do not feel hopeful that the planet will last for my children's children. With this legislation, we can monitor the negative effects on the planet that cutting EPA funding causes. We can also come up with a plan to mitigate these effects. The current administration seems hellbent on killing us all by killing the planet. We need to try to do anything we can to reverse the damage this administration has caused for the sake of survival for all of us.

**MDE HB 663 SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jeremy D Baker

Position: FAV



**The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 663 - Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas  
Emissions - Reporting***

**Position:** Support  
**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Date:** February 18, 2026  
**From:** Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 663.

**Bill Summary**

House Bill 663 would require MDE submit a greenhouse gas emissions report to the General Assembly every six months, starting by July 1, 2026. The report would be required to detail any changes in federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions that have been deemed legally valid by a final decision of a federal court, as well as actions the State is taking in response to those changes. The report would need to consider emissions from new motor vehicles, engines, and stationary sources.

**Position Rationale**

MDE supports the reporting requirements in HB 663. These mandates would help the legislature and the public track how changes in federal greenhouse gas policies impact the state. Furthermore, MDE remains committed to efforts that protect public health, including clean transportation initiatives that address the bills's targeted technologies, such as motor vehicles, engines, and stationary sources.

Accordingly, MDE asks for an **FAVORABLE** report for **HB 663**.

**HB 663 - CBF - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: FAV



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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## House Bill 663

### Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Reporting

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**To:** Environment and Transportation Committee

**Position:** **FAVORABLE**

**From:** Matt Stegman,  
MD Staff Attorney

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation **SUPPORTS House Bill 673**, which requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to report every six months on any changes in Federal policy related to regulation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as well as any steps Maryland may be taking to respond to those changes. With an unpredictable Federal regulatory landscape, state-level leadership is more important than ever to protect our progress towards climate resiliency. This bill will ensure that MDE is proactively assessing changes in Federal policy and that the General Assembly is well-prepared to assist in efforts to address those changes.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 663.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*

# **Copy of HB0663\_Department\_of\_the\_Environment\_Feder**

Uploaded by: Rebecca Turner

Position: FAV

## TESTIMONY FOR HB0663

### Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Reporting

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Rosenberg

**Committee:** Environment and Transportation

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Rebecca M. Turner

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I believe that it will help the General Assembly take appropriate steps to ensure that changes in federal greenhouse gas emissions policy do not hurt Marylanders.

The bill requires the Department of the Environment (MDE) to create a twice-yearly report on any legally valid changes to federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions including changes that –

- Rescind a finding that the greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles and engines cause air pollution
- that may endanger public health or welfare
- repeal greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles and engines
- repeal greenhouse gas emissions standards for stationary sources

It also requires the MDE to state what steps they are taking to offset these changes. I believe that this is important information that will allow the General Assembly to act in a timely manner to ensure that Maryland continues its necessary work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

Rebecca M. Turner

21 Walnut Hill Road

La Plata, MD 20646

# **Testimony in support of HB0663 - Federal Policy on**

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

HB0663\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
02/18/2026  
Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

**TESTIMONY ON HB#0663 – FAVORABLE**

**Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Reporting**

**TO:** Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#0663, Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Reporting**

The Federal Government is totally abandoning its responsibility to protect the environment.

As reported by Nature Magazine *US repeals key ‘endangerment finding’ that climate change is a public threat - Overturning the 2009 decision will lead to billions of extra tons of greenhouse-gas emissions over the next three decades.*<sup>1</sup>

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has revoked [the ‘endangerment finding’, a cornerstone of the nation’s efforts to curb emissions of planet-heating greenhouse gases.](#) Its reversal means that, for the first time in 17 years, the EPA will no longer consider greenhouse gases a threat to public health and welfare. EPA head Lee Zeldin said the move would save the United States money by removing excess regulations, but critics say it will endanger more lives as [climate change intensifies.](#)

The landmark 2009 endangerment finding served as the legal underpinning for US regulations to limit emissions. For now, the EPA is capitalizing on the repeal to roll back emissions rules for cars, trucks and other vehicles, but might later apply it to other sectors, such as power production. By several estimates, ending vehicle regulations alone will add billions of tons of [greenhouse gases](#) to the atmosphere in the coming decades.

Maryland refuses to acquiesce with this dangerous decision. We can accomplish keeping our air cleaner and protected from greenhouse gases by passing this bill. This bill will require, beginning on or before July 1, 2026, and every 6 months thereafter, the Department of the Environment to report to the General Assembly on any changes in federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions that have been deemed legally valid by a final decision of a federal court and, if there has been a change in federal policy, on the steps the State is taking to respond to that change.

The General Assembly can use the reporting to draft legislation to react to and respond in a responsible manner based on actual scientific data and conclusions.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass HB0663.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-00455-6>

**Robert\_M\_Simon-HB\_663-FAVORABLE.pdf**

Uploaded by: Robert Simon

Position: FAV

February 16, 2026

**Testimony on HB 663, Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Reporting**

**Position: Support**

Hearing Date: February 18, 2026

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing as an individual resident and registered voter in Maryland to express my strong support for HB 663, Department of the Environment - Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Reporting.

Let me briefly describe the background to my views on this legislation. For nearly 20 years, I served on the staff of the United States Senate, principally on the staff of its Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. For 14 of those 20 years (1999-2012), I was the Democratic Staff Director of that Committee. I am very familiar with reporting requirements, having drafted, advised on, and helped in the process of enacting many such requirements, as well as helping in the process of repealing reporting requirements that had outlived their usefulness. Prior to my service on the staff of the United States Senate, I was in the U.S. Department of Energy, where I saw the other side of reporting requirements, as an employee of an agency that had many such requirements.

**In my view, this is a well-drafted and timely reporting requirement, and very deserving of a favorable report by the Committee and of enactment by the General Assembly.**

On February 12, the Environmental Protection Agency published a final rule rescinding the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding, which was the legal foundation for its regulation of emissions from new motor vehicles. As stated by the EPA on its website as of today, “Absent this finding, EPA lacks statutory authority under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act to prescribe standards for GHG emissions. Therefore, EPA also finalized the repeal of all subsequent GHG emission standards from its regulations for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty on-highway vehicles and engines.”

I am not alone in seeing this latest step as just one more piece of unmistakable evidence that the Trump Administration will make every effort it can to upend and frustrate sound climate policy, with no regard to the effects internationally, nationally, or at the state-level, such as in Maryland. And policies such as these will pose complex challenges to the Maryland Department of the Environment and other state agencies charged under Maryland law with protecting our environment. This reporting requirement will assist the General Assembly in remaining informed in a timely way of Maryland’s response to a circumstance that is unprecedented in my 70-year memory. And, in my past professional experience, I have seen judicious reporting requirements play a very useful role in crystallizing and advancing interagency discussions on complex topics and policy questions. A notable example that comes to mind is the U.S. National Climate

Assessment, an amazingly useful exercise that would certainly (in my view) not come together on a quadrennial basis, but for the requirement for such a report in law.

As HB 663 recognizes, there will be strong legal challenges to the wrongheaded decisions of the Trump Administration by States, localities, and environmental groups, and the courts may well reverse these misguided actions and policies. For example, the effort of several Republican Administrations to overturn the Clinton Administration's Roadless Rule protecting wilderness areas of our National Forests were overturned on several occasions by the Federal courts, resulting in the reinstatement of the original rule. So, HB 663 wisely focuses on the response to those Trump Administration actions and policies that survive such legal challenges. And, while the courts will be a bulwark against some misguided policies, they will not be a bulwark against all, so Maryland will need to have a sound response strategy to protect its environment and the public health of its citizens.

Finally, section 2 of HB 663 automatically repeals this reporting requirement as of May 31, 2029, requiring the General Assembly to enact an extension or replacement of the requirement, based on the character and actions of the next Administration towards the environment.

In sum, my view is that HB 663 is worthy of enactment (1) because of the unprecedented assault on environmental regulations now underway at the Federal level that demands strong and internally coordinated responses by the State of Maryland, (2) because it is judicious in its scope of requiring reports only on responses to Federal actions that have survived judicial review, and (3) because it contains a sunset provision that ensures that the reports continue only if the General Assembly deems them necessary after the current Administration has ended.

**For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report on HB 663.**

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Robert M. Simon  
6116 Quebec Place, Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

# **HB663.Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Samuel Rosenberg

Position: FAV

**SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG**  
*Legislative District 41*  
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Chair*

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

*House Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg  
Before the Environment and Transportation Committee  
In Support of  
**House Bill 663**  
**Department of the Environment –**  
**Federal Policy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Reporting**

Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

“We’ll be less safe, less healthy, and less able to fight climate change.” This is how former President Obama characterized the effect of last week’s decision by the Trump administration to rescind the endangerment finding.

Without the endangerment finding, almost two decades of progress to fight climate change can, and will, be swiftly eroded. The Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, commonly known as the endangerment finding, was the foundation on which much of the federal government’s restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation, power plant, and oil and gas industries were built.

House Bill 663 was originally conceived as a precautionary measure to guard against the uninformed deregulatory inclinations of the federal government that would make Marylanders less safe. Now, with the endangerment finding being reversed, the Environmental Protection Agency’s budget being cut, fossil fuel development ramping up, and the United States’ exit from the Paris Climate Agreement—again—House Bill 663 is more urgent now than ever.

The Trump administration has made their indifference to greenhouse gas emissions abundantly clear. However, Maryland must respond to this indifference. Before this Committee and the General Assembly take policy action, it is important that we have the most up-to-date

information about all of the regulatory gaps that need to be filled. House Bill 663 accomplishes this goal by requiring biannual reports about changes to federal policy on greenhouse gas emissions from now until the end of the Trump administration.

In the American Lung Association's State of the Air report, 13 out of 15 Maryland counties whose air quality data was reviewed were given a grade of C or lower. The 3 most populated counties—Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Baltimore County—were given grades of D, F, and F, respectively. This finding illuminates that greenhouse gas emissions are a very present threat to the health and well-being of Marylanders.

Our state has no room for regression. While the Trump administration is looking out for the interests of polluting industries, this committee and the General Assembly have a responsibility to look out for everyday Marylanders. We do not have the luxury of inaction because the next generation of Marylanders are looking to us to protect them from the harm posed by greenhouse gas emissions.

In the interest of making Maryland *more* safe, *more* healthy, and *more* able to fight climate change, I urge the committee to report FAVORABLE on House Bill 663.

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026