

HB 572/SB 432: Attorney General Actions and Climate Crimes Accountability Fund (Climate Crimes Accountability Act): Please **vote TO OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee and Judicial Proceedings Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose HB 572/SB 432**, the *Attorney General – Climate Crimes Accountability Fund (Climate Crimes Accountability Act)*.

While environmental stewardship is an important goal, this legislation takes a punitive and legally questionable approach that risks significant economic and constitutional consequences for Maryland. **Expanding the Attorney General’s authority to pursue broad “climate crimes” claims against energy producers and related entities could open the door to costly litigation, regulatory overreach, and prolonged legal battles with uncertain outcomes.**

Maryland families and businesses already face rising energy and utility costs. Litigation-driven policy is likely to increase those costs further, as companies pass along legal expenses and settlement risks to consumers. **Rather than providing relief, this bill may ultimately burden the very residents it intends to protect.**

Additionally, climate policy is a complex national and global issue. Attempting to address it through state-level liability schemes aimed at specific industries raises serious concerns about fairness, interstate commerce, and duplicative or conflicting regulations. Energy producers operate within federal regulatory frameworks and have long supplied products that consumers and governments rely upon daily. **Retroactively imposing expansive liability creates instability, challenges equity** and discourages investment in reliable energy infrastructure.

If Maryland seeks to advance environmental goals, it should do so through clear, prospective policy measures—**not through sweeping litigation strategies that risk politicizing the legal system and undermining economic stability.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 572 / SB 432**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals