

HB0572_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0572- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Attorney General Actions and Climate Crimes Accountability Fund (Climate Crimes Accountability Act)

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0572, **Attorney General Actions and Climate Crimes Accountability Fund (Climate Crimes Accountability Act)**

Under the current Federal administration, the Environmental Protection Agency has decided to protect polluters instead of the people. As reported by NPR *Trump's EPA issues record low legal actions against polluters, watchdog group finds* ¹

The dereliction of duty by the EPA is also noted by the Environmental Integrity Organization *Environmental Enforcement Plummet in the First Year of Trump's Second Term, Data Show Drop in Civil Lawsuits Against Polluters and Administrative Penalties* ²

The intent of this bill is to let our Attorney General enforce laws that the Federal EPA will no longer prosecute. The bill will authorize the Attorney General to investigate, commence, and prosecute or defend any suit or action that holds certain entities accountable for tortious or otherwise unlawful conduct that has contributed to climate change; authorizing the Attorney General to hire outside counsel to assist with an action under the Act if the Attorney General makes a certain determination; establishing the Climate Crimes Accountability Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; etc.

The fund can be used to remediate damage from the pollution and do for Maryland what our Federal Government no longer considers important, protecting the health of all the residents of Maryland.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#/0572

¹ <https://www.npr.org/2026/02/05/nx-s1-5699511/epa-trump-enforcement>

² <https://environmentalintegrity.org/news/environmental-enforcement-plummets-in-the-first-year-of-trumps-second-term/>