



JOINT TESTIMONY OF

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**MARYLAND CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB**

SB432- CLIMATE CRIMES ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

JUDICIARY

FEBRUARY 10TH, 2026

FAVORABLE TESTIMONY

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund and Sierra Club Maryland Chapter, I urge a favorable report on SB432, the Climate Crimes Accountability Act.

Maryland has been seeing an increase in the devastating effects of climate change for years, but recently the state has been hit with even worse heat waves, flooding, and storms. SB432 will authorize the state's Attorney General to investigate, prosecute, or defend any suit or action that holds entities accountable for tortious or unlawful conduct that has contributed to climate change.

The bill makes sure that inaction or deception on the part of these entities is included under tortious behavior. Coal and gas companies have known for decades the damage that fossil fuels can do to the environment and it's time to make polluters pay for the damage they have caused.

SB432 creates The Climate Crimes Accountability Fund. All revenue received by the state from judgements or settlements will be added to the fund, which will be used to supplement state programs that mitigate, prevent, or repair damages caused by climate change. These programs will primarily focus on addressing flooding, storm damage, intense heatwaves, droughts, and ecosystem changes.

We must hold fossil fuel companies accountable for their deceptive business practices and intentional deception related to climate change.

I respectfully request a favorable report on SB432.