



**TESTIMONY FOR HB161  
PROPERTY TAX CREDIT – RETAIL SERVICE STATION CONVERSIONS**

**Bill Sponsor:** Delegate Ruth  
**Committee:** Ways and Means  
**Organization Submitting:** MLC-Climate Justice Wing  
**Person Submitting:** Dave Arndt - CoChair  
**Position:** FAVORABLE

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of HB0161. The Maryland Legislative Coalition (MLC) Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of nearly 30 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on HB0161.

The intent of this bill is to support the redevelopment of former gas stations to other uses. Because it is so hard and costly to convert a service station from its original use, due to the required remediation of the storage tanks below-ground, many service stations remain abandoned as an eyesore for the communities they are located in.

This bill incentivizes the redevelopment of these underused properties by allowing local jurisdictions to enact a property tax credit that would be used to remediate the hazards below-ground at service stations so they could be converted to other uses. It provides a 50% match by the state to offset the property tax, so the impact to the local jurisdiction is reduced. It applies when a site is redeveloped for new, eligible uses.

Maryland's obligation to reduce carbon emission includes the transitions away from gas powered vehicles to electric vehicles. Over the next decade, as many more retail service stations close, this bill will make it easier to lessen the number of abandoned gas stations across the state, and allow those properties to be utilized more productively.

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

350MoCo  
Adat Shalom Climate Action  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry  
Chesapeake Earth Holders  
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Climate Parents of Prince George's  
Climate Reality Project  
ClimateXChange – Rebuild Maryland Coalition  
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists  
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County  
Echotopia  
Elders Climate Action  
Fix Maryland Rail  
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
Greenbelt Climate Action Network  
HoCoClimateAction  
IndivisibleHoCoMD  
Maryland Legislative Coalition  
Mobilize Frederick  
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Mountain Maryland Movement  
Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
Progressive Maryland  
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields  
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee  
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland  
WISE