



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

UNFAVORABLE

Senate Bill 76

Climate Crisis and Education Act

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

The membership of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce expresses great concern over the new and ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals set forth in SB 76, not because it is not a worth endeavor, but such changes will create an immense cost burden on Maryland employers and the generally accepted movement of goods and people. Additionally, among the many provisions contained in SB 76, there are direct increases to the cost of energy. It is also our understanding that SB 76 would create an immense administrative burden on the Maryland Department of the Environment.

For further consideration, to say that COVID-19 has had a tremendous, detrimental impact on Maryland's economy would be an understatement, and there is plenty of reason to remain cautious and concerned about its lasting implications. Maryland businesses continue to struggle, and the Comptroller's Office has estimated that approximately 30,000 businesses have either closed or will close permanently due to the pandemic. A period of major economic downturn and future uncertainty is not the time to implement new policies that stand to negatively impact businesses that are already struggling to overcome the impact of COVID-19.

For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on Senate Bill 76.

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