



TESTIMONY FOR SB0076 CLIMATE CRISIS AND EDUCATION ACT

Bill Sponsor: Senator Kramer

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0076 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Our Coalition members strongly approve of measures to reduce Maryland's greenhouse gas emissions to zero as quickly as possible. We believe that the state should take an aggressive stance in moving in this direction.

This bill strikes a very good balance between aggressive climate policy that will help us achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, building greener infrastructure for the future, and supporting those communities that have been most impacted by the dirty energy policies that we are trying to leave behind. It also takes a somewhat poetic approach in making the very entities who have become rich by flooding our state with fossil fuels that they knew caused harm to fund our transition to clean energy.

The bill places a fee on fossil fuel products coming into the state and specifically prohibits the entities who must pay the fee to then turn around and pass the fee on to consumers. The fee then escalates to drive home the point that fossil fuels are not our future and that companies supporting that industry should abandon it as soon as possible.

The monies that are collected from the carbon fee will then be used to: fund green infrastructure and worker transition to clean energy jobs; provide support to low-income households and energy intensive trade exposed businesses affected by the change to cleaner energy sources; and fund our children's education.

This will have the effect of changing our course to a cleaner future while having the polluters pay for it. They have made their fortunes on the backs of Marylanders for decades. We believe it is time they gave back.

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