



**TESTIMONY FOR HB0298
UTILITY REGULATION – CONSIDERATION OF CLIMATE AND LABOR**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Charkoudian

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0298 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

The Public Service Commission is failing us. In a time where the world is literally burning up, they are continuing to approve fossil fuel infrastructure. They have said that their remit does not require them to consider the impact on climate of building more fossil fuel infrastructure when there are clear (and clean) alternatives that would not affect the environment in such a devastating way. They don't even have to consider fair labor standards when evaluating projects, so they don't.

We have to fix this. If we can't depend on our own public servants to make good decisions, we at least have to change their remit to ensure that they are forced to consider what they should. It is madness that we have to do this, but it seems that we must.

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