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BILL NO.: **HB 66**

TITLE: Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021)

SPONSOR: Delegate Brooks

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 18, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 66 – Electric Generation - Transition From Fossil Fuels - Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Plan and Fund (Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021). This bill phases out the proliferation of coal as an energy source and sets forth a transitional plan for impacted local economies.

As the fight against climate change continues, leaders are faced with a dual-pronged dilemma. As the State begins to pursue options that promote a sustainable future for Marylanders, there must be a system in place to assist the workers whose profession is no longer available.

HB 66 phases out the manufacture of coal in the State of Maryland and provides grants to mitigate subsequent job loss by setting ambitious emissions standards and establishing a Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund. The bold measures set forth by this legislation not only promote the health of our residents, but aid in securing a stable financial future for them as well. It is past time for the State to consider a transition to renewable resources while supporting those who will be affected.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 66. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.