



Citizens' Climate Lobby
Maryland

February 27, 2024

BILL:

TITLE:

POSITION:

COMMITTEE:

SPONSORS:

HEARING DATE: February 29, 2024

HB0516

Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act

Favorable

Economic Matters

Delegates Fennell, Charkoudian, Harris, Martinez, Patterson, and Turner

Hello Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman Crosby, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Thaddeus Waterman. I live in District 22 in Hyattsville Maryland, and I am honored to be representing the Maryland Chapters of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Citizens' Climate Lobby is a national, nonpartisan, volunteer driven climate advocacy organization. In Maryland our Chapters consist of over 3000 residents from across the State.

We urge you to vote favorably on HB0516, the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act.

Our volunteers passionately advocate for solutions to the climate challenges we currently face. Our global dependency on burning fossil fuels is harming, and will continue to harm, not only the climate, but our health, economy, and security. A few local examples are the increased water temperature in the Chesapeake Bay that has deprived fish of vital food, and throughout the state increased flooding has negatively impacted communities. Unless we halt this trajectory and drastically cut our greenhouse gas emissions, the disasters will continue to get more frequent and more severe.

The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act is part of the solutions we need. We specifically support HB0516 for two reasons.

The first reason is that a steadily increasing carbon price, like the one in the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, is the single most cost-effective way to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary. Over [3500 economists](#) concur. By creating a market signal that can be planned for, a steadily increasing carbon price encourages the entire free-market economy to innovate towards a low-carbon future. The policies embodied in HB0516 encourage all Marylanders to share the task of reducing our emissions.

The second reason is that the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act ensures support for the most vulnerable people and businesses as we make the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy. The direct dividends to low and moderate income households are key to ensuring those who will suffer most if we don't act on climate change, don't unnecessarily suffer from our solutions.

Maryland residents want effective and fair climate policies. With the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, Maryland can be a leader on climate that the rest of the nation can follow. The Maryland Chapters of Citizens Climate Lobby urge a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB0516.

Respectfully submitted,

Thaddeus Waterman
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cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee