



Tuesday, February 27, 2024

BILL: HB 0516

TITLE: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act of 2024

POSITION: SUPPORT

HEARING DATE: 2/29/2024

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters

SPONSOR: Delegate Diana Fannell

Dear Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 516, the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act of 2024 (CCEJ). The undersigned organizations urge you to vote favorably on HB 516.

The CCEJ provides a unique opportunity for our state to continue to lead and stay committed to the goals passed in the Climate Solutions Now Act, requiring a 60% reduction of fossil fuel emissions by 2031, 100% clean energy by 2035, and “net zero” by 2045 while also providing the \$1 billion necessary to support the Moore Administrations MDE Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

HB 516 proposes two funds from the revenue generated from the transit and heating fee, the Household and Employer Benefit Fund and the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund. It will generate nearly \$18 billion by 2034 for investment in clean energy infrastructure while providing protective benefits to Maryland's trade-exposed small businesses and its most vulnerable populations: low- and moderate-income and overburdened and underserved households.

I've lived in Annapolis for the last 14 years and have seen firsthand the impacts climate change can have on constituents. Municipalities like Annapolis are counting on the state to chip in on the funding necessary to protect our city's history, economic viability, and communities of all socioeconomic backgrounds.

HB 516, will provide the funding MDE and the Moore Administration have made clear we need while uplifting our most vulnerable communities in the fight against climate change.

Respectfully submitted,

RebuildMDCoalition.org



DaJuan Gay
Maryland Organizer
Rebuild Maryland Coalition

Cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee