



February 27, 2024

BILL: HB0516
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.

The CCEJ will establish two separate fossil fuel fees charged directly to the companies responsible for CO₂ emissions. The Household and Employer Benefit Fund and the Climate Crisis Infrastructure Fund. The CCEJ will strike a balance between environmental responsibility and economic prosperity. It will generate nearly \$18 billion by 2034, and that revenue will be allocated to support local climate resilience plans and investment proposals, along with technical assistance and capacity building for county and municipal governments, built to ensure a collaborative and inclusive approach to climate resilience.

HB 516 does not simply provide the funding necessary for infrastructure projects but emphasizes the need to eradicate decades of harm done to low- and moderate-income overburdened and underserved communities. Dedicating funding to invest in infrastructure projects that have a meaningful and direct impact on those underserved communities. The inclusion of a “polluter pays” provision without passing fees to end-users, is a crucial step towards environmental justice and protects our most vulnerable citizens.

We respectfully urge a favorable committee report on HB 516. By supporting this legislation, you will contribute to Maryland’s greenhouse gas reduction goals, promote environmental justice, and protect our states against the impacts of climate change.

RebuildMDCoalition.org



Respectfully submitted,

Climate XChange Maryland

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL)

Citizens Climate Lobby Maryland State Action Team

Climate Reality Greater Maryland

Climate Parents of Prince George's

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Environmental Justice Ministry

DoTheMostGood

Elders Climate Action Maryland

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN)

Maryland Legislative Coalition - Climate Justice Wing

SEIU Local 500

Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (MC FACS)

Maryland League of Conservation Voters

Maryland National Organization for Women

Policy Foundation of Maryland

Indivisible Environmental Action

350 Montgomery

Cc: Members of the Economic Matters Committee

Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee