



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
6 Bladen Street, House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21041

Re: Testimony **IN SUPPORT** of House Bill 1545 – Electric Generation – Transition From Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

Last year, I committed Howard County to declare “We are still in”. In doing so, we declared that we support climate action through the 2015 Paris agreement. Additionally, we committed to even more ambitious targets for decreasing Howard County emissions.

- Howard County will reduce greenhouse gas emissions of County government operations 45 percent below 2010 levels by the year 2030 and reach zero emissions by 2050.
- By 2024, Howard County will get 20 percent of its power for local government operations from renewable sources. Just this week we I have proposed an agreement that will surpass this goal – by getting nearly 30% of our power from solar arrays built on Howard County government property and elsewhere in Howard County.
- By 2024, Howard County will reduce petroleum fuel consumption in its fleet by 20 percent.
- By 2024, we will reduce energy use in County facilities by 25 percent, well beyond the required 15 percent reduction, making Howard County the first to go beyond state requirements.

Howard County is doing all that we can to fight climate change, but our efforts will fall short unless the state partners with us and takes an active role. This bill, which aims to phase out our coal-fired plants, is a critical step in these efforts.

As you know, this legislation sets a firm timetable for retiring Maryland’s coal plants by establishing appropriate emissions standards under Maryland’s Healthy Air Act. Equally as important to me, it establishes a Coal Community Transition Plan and Account, governed by those who will be most impacted by the power plant closures, and supported by a dedicated, protected funding stream. It is critical that we work proactively to manage all impacts of our energy transition to make sure the entire Maryland community is positively impacted.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical piece of legislation and for all of the work this committee does to help lead the fight for climate change remediation, adaptation, and resiliency.

I appreciate your partnership and request a favorable report of House Bill 1545.

All the Best,

Calvin Ball  
Howard County Executive