



February 16, 2022

The Honorable Delegate C. T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 0171 - Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act - Oppose
HB 0708 - Comprehensive Climate Solutions - Oppose

Dear Delegate Wilson:

HB 0171 and HB 0708 both seek to accelerate our state's efforts to address the climate crisis, to ban natural gas, and to impose "pollution fees" on certain types of fuels, among several other provisions that will impose economic hardship on both businesses and residents of Maryland.

In order to reach the accelerated goals these bills propose, Maryland homeowners will be forced to replace existing home appliances. Some estimates indicate the cost of retrofitting one household will exceed \$28,000. It will also force businesses to stop using affordable and clean natural gas, and spend tremendous amounts of money to install and run alternative sources. Those alternative sources for heating alone are more expensive to operate than those run with natural gas.

These plans will inflict economic challenges on citizens and businesses during a time when they can least afford it – especially with persistent increases seen in energy costs and consumer inflation that currently show no signs of abating.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 680 members, opposes this bill. We therefore request that you give this bill an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Haven Shoemaker
Senator Justin Ready