



**House Bill 516 -- *Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act of 2024***  
**House Economic Matters Committee and House Environment and Transportation Committee**  
**February 29, 2024**  
**Oppose**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes House Bill 516 -- *Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act of 2024*.

House Bill 516 establishes the Climate Crisis Initiative in the Maryland Department of the Environment to assess greenhouse gas pollution fees to fund activities for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and sequestration, improvements in resiliency, and the promotion of just economic transition in Maryland.

MCCC applauds efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and their impact on the environment. However, House Bill 516 is concerning due to the uncompetitive cost burdens levied on Maryland's employers and businesses. This bill would also harm Maryland's consumers by creating the likelihood of growing energy costs at a time when many cannot afford an increase. While it is important that policymakers find solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a tax on businesses and consumers would harm economic activity and growth in Maryland.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 516 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

*Brian Levine | Vice President of Government Affairs  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street | Suite 1800  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
301-738-0015 | [www.mcccmd.com](http://www.mcccmd.com)*