

STATE OF MARYLAND
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: SJ 9

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

BILL ANALYSIS: This Senate Joint Resolution urges the United States Congress to act expeditiously to enact comprehensive legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: Support

- Maryland has long advocated that the best way to manage reductions in GHG emissions is through a strong national and international program.
- Absent a strong national program, states have acted to ensure that GHG emission reductions take place in the short term.
- The evidence from the International Panel on Climate Change is compelling – dramatic actions are needed in the short term to reduce GHG emissions to halt the most damaging impacts of global warming.
- Maryland has been very active in the climate arena – The Maryland Commission on Climate Change, The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, EmPOWER Maryland, The Clean Cars Program – just these programs alone in Maryland will reduce Maryland's GHG emissions in excess of 30 million tons by 2020 – if implemented federally, these types of programs could have a dramatic global impact
- Maryland has taken an aggressive stance on short term GHG emission reductions based on the current science. Maryland advocates that a national program seek quick and aggressive

reductions in GHG emissions using a 25% reduction from 2006 levels as a starting point for a national program.

- Cap and trade program will likely be the cornerstone of any national program and Maryland's involvement in RGGI has shown that GHG cap and trade programs, while complex, can work and reduce carbon in the atmosphere.
- Under a national cap and trade program, Maryland advocates that a significant amount of auction revenue be returned to the states to implement those greenhouse gas reduction strategies directly linked to state and local government laws and regulations.
- Maryland spent most of last summer working with representatives of Maryland's manufacturing sector, labor unions, and environmental organizations on language for SB278 – the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2009 – and these groups would likely also support the development of a national program that would ensure equity and financial stability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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