



UJAE Unions for Jobs And the Environment

Address: PO Box 56173, Washington, DC 20040-6173 Voice and Fax: 301-585-5828 Email: ujae@rcn.com Website: www.ujae.org

Opposition to Maryland SB309 and HB712

Member Unions

Brotherhood of Locomotive
Engineers
International Brotherhood
of Boilermakers,
Iron Ship Builders,
Blacksmiths, Forgers
and Helpers
International Brotherhood
of Electrical Workers
International Brotherhood
of Teamsters
Marine Engineers Beneficial
Association
Sheet Metal Workers
International Association
Transportation • Communications
International Union
United Association of
Journeyman and Apprentices
In the Plumbing and Pipefitting
Industry
United Food and Commercial
Workers International Union
United Mine Workers
of America
United Transportation Union
Utility Workers Union
of America

President

Bill Cunningham

- The enactment of new statewide “cap and trade” legislation based on recommendations of the Maryland Climate Change Commission (MDCCC) is premature and inappropriate. Maryland already has committed to the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), which will limit electric power plant carbon dioxide emissions in ten states beginning next year.
- The RGGI program will recycle the proceeds of CO2 allowance auctions to support new Maryland energy conservation and efficiency initiatives. Roughly \$50 million will be invested annually to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- The aggressive California-type statewide climate regulations proposed by the MDCCC would raise consumer electric rates dramatically, just as Maryland consumers are absorbing the shocks of sharply higher electric bills due to electricity deregulation. New statewide emission control requirements would risk substantial job losses throughout the Maryland economy, and particularly at electric generating plants that may be forced to close or to switch to costly natural gas.
- In September 2007, Maryland residential electric customers paid 13.3 cents per kilowatt hour, compared to 10.9 cents nationally. Maryland’s electric rates will increase further to pay for the emission controls mandated in the 2006 Healthy Air Act.
- In 2004, Maryland ranked 41th among states in per capita energy consumption, 20% below the national average of 342 million BTU’s per person. Maryland’s CO2 emissions per person average 14.6 tons, compared to 20.2 tons per capita nationally.
- Maryland cannot act unilaterally to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions that would measurably benefit Maryland’s environment. Maryland’s CO2 emissions are 3/10ths of one percent of global CO2 emissions. Only national climate change legislation can help to address the immediate and longer-term environmental challenges posed by increasing global greenhouse gas concentrations.
- All major federal climate change bills call for carbon allowance auctions. An expanded Maryland carbon auction program would simply expose Maryland consumers and industries to a double state and federal carbon tax.

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