



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**HB 708
Support**

**House Economic Matters Committee
February 28, 2022
HB 708 Comprehensive Climate Solutions
City Contact: Cindy Dyballa, City Council Member
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The City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of House Bill 708, and urges favorable consideration.

This bill would take the much-needed step of accelerating the state's overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal from 40% to 60% by 2032, with a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2045. Provisions address a wide range of state policies and actions to meet these goals, such as efforts to: electrify the state vehicle fleet, require more aggressive utility electrification and energy-saving programs, establish a statewide energy investment fund, convene a state commission on environmental justice, and address job impacts, among other provisions. These efforts, and more, are urgently needed statewide.

Throughout Maryland, we have seen that our climate statewide is dramatically and rapidly changing with devastating local consequences, and that we must dramatically reduce GHG emissions in the short term to address this. We must accelerate and expand efforts on the part of all levels of government, and the state of Maryland must take an aggressive leadership role and lead by example. The impacts of a changing climate have significant economic consequences for us all. One major impact in Takoma Park is more stormwater runoff more often, challenging the capacity of our older infrastructure. Another is rising energy cost burdens that affect the most vulnerable among us. There's no time to waste.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing GHG emissions through our many local policies and actions. But to truly fulfill our City's commitments, and dramatically reduce our GHG emissions, we need strong state leadership and action to support us.

In 2019 the City declared a climate emergency and set a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2035. In 2020 the City adopted a Climate Emergency Response Framework to move aggressively to implement that goal. It focuses on buildings and transportation, the two areas of greatest GHG emissions in our community, and two major focus areas of this bill. Our City is publicly committed to action on climate change through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge. But our City cannot reduce GHG emissions alone. Strong statewide programs and funding for comprehensive climate solutions now are critical.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of this bill, and encourages a favorable vote.