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**BILL NO.:** House Bill 708

**TITLE:** Comprehensive Climate Solutions

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Barve

**COMMITTEE:** Economic Matters

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT WITH AMEDMENTS**

**DATE:** March 4, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 708 - Comprehensive Climate Solutions. This legislation serves as the main provision in a package of bills that will provide a comprehensive path forward for Maryland as leaders look to reduce greenhouse gas emission and ensure a sustainable future.

Baltimore County is committed to tackling the real and significant challenge of climate change. Under the leadership of County Executive Johnny Olszewski, Baltimore County is working to meet 100% of County government's energy demand with renewable energy sources, investing in energy efficiency in County buildings, and transitioning our County fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles. Efforts to mitigate climate change, however, will require hard work at all levels of government.

Baltimore County supports provisions to further reduce Statewide Greenhouse Gas emissions and provide schools and local governments with technical assistance through creation of a Climate Transition and Clean Energy Hub. The County also strongly supports measures in this bill that would identify communities that are being disproportionately impacted by climate change and direct dedicated funding toward solutions for these communities. Additionally, Baltimore County appreciates the flexibility and consideration for local governments included in this bill that give municipalities more time to meet ambitious goals.

In supporting this bill, we would like ensure that provisions do not unintentionally impede Baltimore County's sustainability goals. HB 708 would require aerial monitoring of methane emissions from municipal landfills and the development of emissions standards. The County's solid waste engineers have expressed concerns that this type of monitoring will not be able to effectively differentiate between

methane from our sanitary landfill and other nearby landfill facilities that also emit methane. Baltimore County is also concerned that potential emission standards and additional monitoring may require the addition of costly methane monitoring systems at one or both of our closed landfills, potentially disrupting the large-scale solar installations planned at both sites. While this legislation gives the Maryland Department of the Environment the flexibility to set these standards, it is critical these regulations do not unintentionally impede other efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and develop clean energy.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 708. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).