



March 2, 2022

**HB0708 Comprehensive Climate Solutions - Favorable**

Kirsten Hoffman for the Green Towson Alliance

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and Honorable Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

The Green Towson Alliance (GTA) writes in support of HB0708 Comprehensive Climate Solutions. We are a coalition of environmentalists who advocate for a greener, healthier, more beautiful community in Baltimore County. While our work focuses mainly on the Towson area, we are very concerned with the impacts of climate change that affect all Marylanders across our state.

Towson is currently shown as a heat island on the NOAA Urban Heat Island study. As our community continues to grow and we see new construction and more cars on our roads, the heat island effect will only worsen. GTA advocates for the planting of urban street trees and the construction of energy-efficient buildings to help mitigate climate change at our local level. We request that the state now does its part by passing comprehensive climate legislation to reduce carbon emissions and achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. Further, the state needs to promote and prioritize the move toward electrification of the building and transportation sectors across our state. While we make these changes, we must ensure that climate justice is at the forefront of climate policy. We have seen the impacts of climate injustice at work in East Towson and we have been involved with advocating for responsible - not harmful - development there. We applaud the inclusion of the Maryland Climate Justice Corps in this bill to help the state achieve its climate goals.

We have no time to waste. Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the nation to the effects of global warming, with flooding and record-breaking heat already regular occurrences. We urgently need bold leadership now to put our state on a path to a sustainable future.

Please give your support to the passage HB0708.

Respectfully,

Kirsten Hoffman  
*for the Green Towson Alliance*