



## **GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION**

**Committee:** Education, Health & Environmental Affairs; Budget and Taxation  
**Testimony on:** SB135 - “Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act”  
**Organization:** Glen Echo Heights Mobilization  
**Submitted By:** Lisa Hemmer, Member  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 15, 2022

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization – a community organization in Montgomery County Maryland with 50 members or more -- submits testimony in support of SB135, a bill that would provide funds for low and moderate income families as well as local governments to create and implement climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions.

### **The Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act would:**

- Provide an economic solution to climate issues in vulnerable communities.
- Provide funding needed for resiliency to support vulnerable populations and businesses as Maryland makes the necessary transition from a fossil fuel economy to a sustainable economy.
- Establish a Climate Crisis Benefit Fund and the Infrastructure Fund to support heavily impacted communities, including their schools.

### **We support this legislation for the following reasons:**

- In August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declared a “code red for humanity” due to rapidly worsening climate change. Its report declared that the planet has delayed curbing their fossil-fuel emissions for so long that the sort of impacts that the planet is experiencing from extreme storms, fires and floods, and heatwaves will continue. Nonetheless, there is a short window for preventing the most harrowing future.
- Studies show that the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions extend from the pollutant impact on the individual body to livability on the planet.
- **This bill would acknowledge science and equity.**

**Conclusion.** This bill ensures Maryland’s commitments toward environmental sustainability. We urge a favorable report by this Committee.