

# **HB147AlanaGinsburgSGA\_fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Alana Ginsburg

Position: FAV

**Committees:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
**Testimony on:** SB250, Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement  
**Position:** Favorable

2023 February 08

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy & the Environment Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports HB147 that requires each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change.

My name is Alana Ginsburg and I am a student at the University of Maryland, currently living in College Park studying environmental and atmospheric science. Both in and out of the classroom, it has become apparent to our scientists, scientists-in-training like me, and the public alike that our weather patterns are shifting towards the more unfamiliar and more extreme. A federal report stated that for every \$1 spent on preparing for these natural hazards, \$6 is saved<sup>1</sup>. Having county climate crisis plans provides a structured way for these preparations to be made, as local county and town governments are ultimately the ones who have jurisdiction over the infrastructure that needs to be adapted.

We can mitigate the level of catastrophe that will threaten our future families and livelihoods if we transition to low and zero carbon infrastructure and transportation, and these climate crisis plans will ensure that every county in Maryland is doing their part to lower their emissions. Implementing the policies of climate action plans also creates more equitable living options and is an investment into our people and communities. Your support of HB0147 would signal that the state of Maryland is truly committed to creating a more sustainable, inclusive future.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.

Thank you,



*Alana Ginsburg, Student Government Association Director of Sustainability*  
*University of Maryland — College Park,*  
*acgins@umd.edu*

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema\\_mitsaves-factsheet\\_2018.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_mitsaves-factsheet_2018.pdf)

**SB 250\_IndivisibleHoCoMD\_FAV\_Barbara Matheson.pdf**

Uploaded by: Barbara Matheson

Position: FAV



**SB 250 – Environment - Climate Crisis Plan -  
Requirement**

**Testimony before**

**Education, Energy and the Environment Committee**

**February 9, 2023**

**Position: Favorable**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Matheson, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB 250**, to mandate county governments to establish a plan for addressing state goals set by the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We appreciate the leadership of Senator Kramer for sponsoring this important legislation.

This ACT – Climate Crisis Plan - requires each county to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change and to submit its plan to the Department of the Environment for review and feedback. Time deadlines are established for county and Department of the Environment compliance with procedures. Each county will review and update its plan with a certain frequency.

There is unequivocal evidence the Earth is warming at an unprecedented rate. There is indisputable evidence that greenhouse gas emissions are responsible. The State of Maryland took bold action in 2022: *Climate Solutions Now* established essential carbon caps and set in place necessary strategies. SB 250 moves Climate Solutions Now from paper policy to legal actions. It embodies a whole government approach, significant policy changes, detailed regulations, and rapid innovation. This is in keeping with the urgency and complexity of the climate problem.

We now have less than ten years to impact the climate crisis. We have the data and technologies to solve the problem. What can be lacking is political will. SB250 puts responsibility on county and state government to TAKE ACTION NOW. This is transformative action. It is a law for a safe climate - a better, just and prosperous future for the citizens of Maryland and the world.

Thank you for your courage and consideration of this essential legislation.

**We respectfully urge a favorable committee report.**

Barbara Matheson, PhD  
11301 Willow Bottom Drive  
Columbia, MD 21045

**Caroline Howser\_SB250 Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Caroline Howser

Position: FAV

**Committees:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Testimony on:** SB250, Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

**Position:** Favorable

7 February 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports SB250 that requires each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony today.

Many students feel that the burden of climate change falls unfairly on our futures, and our dreams. For me personally, the majority of my life the thing that I have most looked forward to is one day becoming a mom. I even keep a running list on my phone of things I want to do either for or with my future children, these range from putting “I love you” notes in their lunchboxes, to wearing matching pajamas on Christmas morning. But as the climate crisis worsens, I see this dream fade. I ask myself, how can I bring children into a world that is dying? In Maryland, we’re seeing an increasing amount of dangerously hot days and instances of severe weather, with this only expected to worsen if no action is taken.

Many people my age have the same worry. I have had countless conversations with my peers where they begin to excitedly talk about one day becoming a parent, but then their face falls, and they have to qualify what they are saying with, “*if* I become a parent.” Because they too are facing the internal struggle of wanting so badly to have children, but morally not knowing if they should, due to the expected future effects of climate change.

But it is still possible for myself and for other members of my generation to one day be able to become parents in good conscience, and to raise children on an Earth where there is no longer a climate crisis. You have the power to ensure that Maryland is being proactive in addressing climate change, and taking steps to improve the health of Marylanders and of our planet. Bills such as SB250 give me hope that my dream of wearing matching pajamas with my children on Christmas morning will one day become reality.

And it is for these reasons that I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB250.

Thank you,



*Caroline Howser, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Representative*  
*University of Maryland — College Park,*  
*[chhowser@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:chhowser@terpmail.umd.edu)*



**SB250CarolineThorneSGA\_fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Caroline Thorne

Position: FAV

**Committee:** Education, Energy and the Environment

**Testimony on:** SB250 Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

**Position:** Favorable

3 February 2023

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports SB250 that requires each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change.

I was a Girl Scout for 13 years, which exposed me to environmental stewardship at a young age. As a kid, I adored hiking trips, gardening and science experiments out in nature. When I was older, this morphed into stream clean ups, organizing CSAs, and storm drain labeling. As I grow older, I don't feel the same sense of confidence in what I do to protect the environment as I did when I was a Girl Scout. At a certain point, individual action isn't enough to reverse the tide of climate change. As a sustainability studies student, I feel a sense of impending doom as I continue to study the environment and climate change. This is my generation's future, and many of us feel like there is little that can be done to stop it.

At this point, there is no denying that we are in a climate crisis. We see the dangerous impacts of climate change across the state of Maryland every day.

This bill sets forth the necessary requirement for each county to have a climate crisis plan, which should increase use of renewable energy, reduce energy consumption, electrifying buildings, and establish greenhouse gas reduction targets. It also requires an aspect of this plan to identify and address communities who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB250.

Thank you,



*Caroline Thorne, Student Government Association Director of Government Affairs*  
*University of Maryland — College Park,*  
*[cthorne@terpmail.umd.edu](mailto:cthorne@terpmail.umd.edu)*

# **SB0250 Climate Crisis Plan FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



## TESTIMONY FOR SB0250 Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

**Bill Sponsor:** Senator Kramer

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Organization Submitting:** Maryland Legislative Coalition

**Person Submitting:** Cecilia Plante, co-chair

**Position:** FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0250 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of individuals and grassroots groups with members in every district in the state with well over 30,000 members.

We are on a sinking ship without a plan. Truly. As a state, we have acted responsibly to codify goals for the emissions reductions that we need to stave off the most dire effects of the climate crisis. But the counties? Where are their plans? Some counties have successfully created not only contingency plans, but have put in place active measures to decarbonize. But most counties in the state have chosen to sit and wait. This is not a successful approach by any measure.

Thus, this bill requires each Maryland County to create a climate crisis plan to address the crisis and how to best remediate the effects on their county and to do their part in working towards our state goals. They must report that plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment who must comment on the viability of the plan. The bill also calls for the counties to update their plans every three years. The bill specifically requires the plans to

- Increase renewable energy use;
- Expand energy efficiency programs and to reduce the energy use for residential, commercial and public buildings;
- Reducing or eliminating the use of fossil fuels in the design of new buildings;
- Retrofit existing buildings to be all-electric;
- Transition all vehicles, including buses and school buses to be electric;
- Design and implement safe infrastructure to promote alternative modes of transportation such as biking and walking;
- Increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Benchmark all buildings;
- Establish greenhouse gas reduction targets;
- Sequester carbon dioxide through habitat preservation, increasing urban forests;
- Develop composting sites for residential and commercial waste;
- Identify the communities and infrastructure within the county most vulnerable to the effects

of climate change, including how to mitigate the heat island effect, access to emergency cooling, improving air quality, addressing climate-related health care needs; and establishing energy efficiency programs, including financial support for heating and cooling systems;

- Create adaption strategies for mitigating the risk

There is nothing like being prepared when you are facing a crisis. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

# **SB250 - Clean Water Action - FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Emily Ranson

Position: FAV

## **SB250/HB147: Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 9, 2022

### **Position: Favorable**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action supports SB250 to require that counties prepare and submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in their county.

Despite our small geographic area, Maryland has significant and wide impacts from climate change. On the Eastern Shore and low lying areas, saltwater intrusion on crops, flooding, and rising water tables pose risks to communities and infrastructure. On peninsulas and communities that must traverse vulnerable roads, rising water and larger storm events will cause problems for emergency services. Heat island effect, especially in more urbanized counties, is a growing concern. Without emergency cooling or heat island mitigation, summer heatwaves can become deadly.

SB250 sets counties up to prepare for climate change now, when we can both take mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce warming and be prepared for what may come. Planning today will encourage efficient adaptation to new threats and will mitigate the damage to our infrastructure, communities, and people.

For this, we urge a favorable report.

Thank you,  
Emily Ranson  
Clean Water Action  
eranson@cleanwater.org

**SB 250\_CBF\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Erik Fisher

Position: FAV





# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration  
Environmental Education

## Senate Bill 250

Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement

Date: February 9, 2023

Position: Support

To: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

From: Erik Fisher, AICP, MD Land Use Planner

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) urges a **FAVORABLE** report from the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee on SB 250. If adopted, this bill would ensure that local jurisdictions across the state have plans in place to reduce the negative effects of climate change and protect infrastructure, services, and environmental features from projected impacts.

**Climate change impacts like sea level rise, higher temperatures, and increased precipitation directly impact local infrastructure and waterways.** Rising seas can flood marshes, reducing the state's wetland footprint where these features are unable to migrate inland. Warming waters hold less oxygen, requiring proportionally larger reductions in nutrient pollution to achieve water quality standards. Intensifying storms overwhelm stormwater management facilities and accelerate erosion, flushing extra sediment into local creeks and streams. These and other related climate impacts can increase the cost and time that must be invested in the cleanup effort.

### **Local planning can reduce climate impacts and strengthen the environmental systems that protect us.**

Coordinated efforts to curb emissions and allow natural infrastructure to adapt can blunt the impacts of climate change and help make communities more resilient. SB 250 provides a framework for local jurisdictions to identify proactive steps, taking into account local conditions, priorities, and assets. Efforts to reduce emissions from transportation and energy generation will ease a direct climate change driver while also cutting nitrogen pollution to local waterways. Habitat assessment and preservation will capture carbon and stabilize natural features like marshes and forests that soak up stormwater and provide a buffer to protect communities against storm tides. And SB 250's inclusion of adaptation strategies will help local officials effectively manage marsh migration, shoreline maintenance, and forest cover as rising sea levels pressure this coastal infrastructure.

### **CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 250.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 109,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

# **CCAN testimony for Climate Crisis Plan .pdf**

Uploaded by: Jamie DeMarco

Position: FAV



**Testimony in Support of Climate Crisis Plan Requirement  
SB 0250  
Education, Energy, and the Environment  
2/09/2023**

**Jamie DeMarco, Maryland Director  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund**

On behalf of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, I urge a favorable report on SB 0250.

The climate crisis is already incurring costs for Marylanders that is eating up state and local budgets. Annapolis is already spending [\\$50 million to update their dock](#). There are public schools in Maryland that never used to need air conditioning that now need to have air conditioning installed, which will [cost more than \\$700 million in new equipment](#). Our 3,000 miles of low lying coastline makes Maryland one of the states most exposed to the damage of sea level rise. By 2040, [rising sea levels are expected to cost Maryland more than \\$27 billion](#). These changes and others will keep costing Marylanders, and urgent action is needed to reduce climate pollution.

That is why it is imperative for every county to make an updated plan for how it will reduce emissions.

The good news is that wind and solar coupled with batteries to provide 24/7 power is now the cheapest form of electricity. EVs are now the cheapest way to drive, and electric heat pumps are the cheapest way to heat and cool your home. We can achieve 100% clean electricity and use that electricity to run our economy and save money in the process, but that won't happen without a plan.

As of this year, [99% of all coal plants in this country are more expensive than local renewable energy would be](#). That's why the Dickerson coal plant closed and is in the process of being replaced, megawatt for megawatt, with solar plus batteries. That's why three quarters of all the new power generation built last years was wind, solar, and batteries, a percentage that has been shooting upwards every year.

With falling costs for clean technology, coupled with the new investments from the Inflation Reduction Act, we are living in a new world where the clean choice is the cost effective choice. However, we are still working against the powerful force of inertia. It is always easiest to keep doing what you are doing, even if by doing something new you can create more jobs, lower costs, and save lives through reduced air pollution.



That's why every county would benefit from being required to make a climate crisis plan, and why CCAN Action Fund supports this legislation.

Sincerely,  
Jamie DeMarco

**CONTACT**  
Jamie DeMarco, Maryland Director  
[jamie@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:jamie@chesapeakeclimate.org), 443-845-5601



# 0250.pdf

Uploaded by: John Ford

Position: FAV

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 0250**

**Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**

TO: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee.

FROM: **John Preston Ford**

DATE: February 8, 2023

I support SENATE BILL 0250 establishing requirements for county Climate Crisis Plans.

Every single opportunity for both emissions reductions and climate resilience needs to be pursued in this looming climate crisis we have created for ourselves. We need action at every level of government, not just at the international, national, and state levels, but at the county and local levels as well. There are some counties in this state, like Dorchester, that will need to take dramatically different actions than others, like Baltimore City. Each of these jurisdictions *will* need a plan, and so it's a great idea to start requiring them.

For these reasons and more, I urge a favorable report on SENATE BILL 0250.

**John Ford**  
**3301 Fleet St.**  
**Baltimore, MD 21224**

# **SB250 Climate Crisis Plan\_Educ Energy Environment\_**

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV



**Committee:** Education, Energy & Environment  
**Testimony on:** SB250 – Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement  
**Organization:** Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing  
**Submitting:** Laurie McGilvray, Co-Chair  
**Position:** Favorable  
**Hearing Date:** February 9, 2023

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of over 50 grassroots and professional organizations, urges you to vote favorably on SB250.

SB250 requires each county to prepare a Climate Crisis Plan (Plan) to address the effects of climate change and to submit the Plan to the Department of the Environment for review and feedback by June 1, 2024. A final plan is due by January 1, 2025, and the Plan must be updated every three years thereafter.

The impacts of climate change are very evident in Maryland from rising sea levels and salt water intrusion to severe storms and flooding to extreme heat. Counties are often at the front lines of responding to climate-driven emergencies, and therefore, should play a significant role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for and adapting to climate change impacts.

SB250 calls upon counties to do the requisite planning needed to be ready. Each county will prepare a plan that details ways to: expand the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures; reduce fossil fuel use in buildings and transportation; sequester carbon through habitat preservation and restoration; and become more resilient through infrastructure planning; reduce heat island and human health impacts; and minimize risks to residents and businesses.

It is much less costly to minimize risks than to respond to disasters. SB250 will ensure that counties develop a Plan to minimize the risks of climate change. Therefore, we support SB250 and urge a FAVORABLE vote.



# **Environmental Bill Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Maria Johnsonbaugh

Position: FAV

**Committees:** Environment and Transportation

**Testimony on:** HB147, Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

**Position:** Favorable

5 February 2023

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Maria Johnsonbaugh, on behalf of the University of Maryland Student Government Association. I would like to express my support of HB147 which requires each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change.

Simply put, the citizens of our state have been through significant hardships in the past few years, most notably induced by Covid-19. In my Howard County Community, I had seen firsthand how during this crisis, many of my neighbors and schoolmates were forced to turn to community food drives and school system-provided meals to make ends meet throughout the crisis. While the worst of the pandemic is over, our people and economy are still reeling from its consequences and unless significant action is taken, we face another crisis that can pose even more catastrophic consequences, the climate crisis.

I am currently studying economics and public health, and my classes have emphasized the climate crisis, as one that poses impending threats to the health and economy of the world. As we've seen in recent years, the climate crisis has unleashed devastating natural disasters in unprecedented numbers and magnitude. Reparations are particularly expensive and cause millions of dollars of productivity lost, not to mention destroying countless lives and livelihoods in the process. Moreover, in my public health courses, we researched and identified that while the climate crisis has the potential to cause collateral economic and social damage to all individuals, it is the most vulnerable, being the poor, uneducated, women, and other historically marginalized groups, that are disproportionately impacted. In other words, the climate crisis has the potential to reverse decades of work that Marylanders and our government have made toward equality, in law and practice, for all.

The consensus that I've heard about the crisis from other college students is almost resignation. We are constantly bombarded with worst-case scenarios and word of new disasters all over the world nearly every day, attributed to climate change, but rarely are we given any word of hope, what we can do to mitigate its impacts or that significant progress, or any, is being made to combat this new situation. For instance, we feel powerless when we make small steps, like using reusable water bottles when we see enormous smoke stacks in cities release toxic gases into the atmosphere or celebrities jet all over the world in luxurious private airplanes that emit tons of CO2. As such, there is only so much we as average citizens can do.

Climate change is an extremely complex, legitimate, and present threat to the economy and health of our people, individuals who have already been hit hard by Covid-19. As a result, we turn to you, our government, and implore you to step up and take action. With your help and support on this bill, Maryland can not only mitigate and reverse the effects of climate change, but bolster the health, economy, and society of our state as well.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.

Thank you,



*Maria Johnsonbaugh*

*UMD Student Government Association Public Defender*

*mjohns70@terpmail.umd.edu*

**SB250\_MDSierraClub\_fav 9Feb2023.pdf**

Uploaded by: Mark Posner

Position: FAV



P.O. Box 278  
Riverdale, MD 20738

**Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment**  
**Testimony on: SB250 “Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement”**  
**Position: Support**  
**Hearing Date: February 9, 2023**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports SB250 to require each Maryland county to prepare a “climate crisis plan.” As explained below, we suggest one clarification to the bill to harmonize it with the provisions of last year’s Climate Solutions Now Act.

As set forth in the bill, the new plans will need to include a variety of county actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thus mitigate climate change. These actions will include, among other things, increasing the use of renewable energy, providing for buildings (existing and new) to be all-electric, transitioning to zero-emission county vehicles, providing for public transportation, and designing infrastructure to promote biking, walking, and carpools. Counties also will need to develop climate adaptation measures.

In recent years, Maryland has taken multiple steps to address climate change. This includes passage last year of the Climate Solutions Now Act, which sets goals for greenhouse gas emission reductions of 60% (compared to 2006) by 2031 and net-zero emissions by 2045, and details a number of actions the State will undertake to achieve these goals. In previous sessions, the General Assembly acted to increase solar and offshore-wind electricity generation, and required the Public Service Commission in factor climate change into all its energy-related decisionmaking.

The State’s aggressive climate goals will necessitate a continuing appraisal and reappraisal of the actions needed to be taken at all levels of government to mitigate climate change. That essential truth is embodied in the Climate Solutions Now Act, which requires that the state develop a plan this year for how Maryland will attain the 60% emissions reduction by 2031, and also establishes several work groups to analyze next steps. Currently, however, there is no requirement that county governments join and contribute to these efforts.

This bill seeks to remedy that gap by requiring county climate plans be adopted by January 1, 2025. In so doing, the bill balances two important interests: that of the State to ensure that county plans are comprehensive and efficacious; and that of the counties to make judgments based on local conditions and resources. The bill establishes a policy framework for the plans by identifying the specific types of actions to be included, requires counties to fill in the specifics, and provides for the Maryland Department of the Environment to provide feedback to the counties on their draft plans and for counties to address that feedback when they finalize their plans.

Our suggested clarification concerns the relationship between the bill’s proposed requirement that county plans “establish[] greenhouse gas reduction targets” and the greenhouse gas

reduction targets enacted last year in the Climate Solutions Now Act (a 60% reduction compared to the 2006 level by 2031, and net-zero emissions by 2045). Clearly, the county reduction targets will need to be consistent with the Statewide targets, while also taking into account local conditions. Accordingly, we suggest appropriate language be added to specify that the county reduction targets should support, or be consistent with, the statewide targets.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on this legislation.

Mark Posner  
Clean Energy Team Lead  
Mposner5719@gmail.com

Josh Tulkin  
Chapter Director  
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

# **Climate Crisis Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: nanci Wilkinson

Position: FAV

**House Bill 147: Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**

**Sponsored sponsored by Del Fraser-Hidalgo (cross filed with SB 250 Senator Kramer**

**Hearing: February 8 at 1:30 pm**

**House Committee: Environment & Transportation**

**Organization: Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church**

**Written Testimony**

**Position: Favorable**

**The Environmental Justice Ministry of the Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church strongly supports Senate bill 250 the Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act as one of its highest priority bills.** This bill requires each county to prepare a Climate Crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in that county; requires each county to submit its plan to the Department of the Environment for review and feedback on or before June 1, 2024; requires the Department to provide feedback to each county on or before November 1, 2024; requires each county to finalize its plan on or before January 1, 2025; and requires each county to review and update its plan at least once every 3 years.

In our support we are quoting extensively from the legislation as it substantiates in full detail the intent and huge significance of this landmark law. The preamble very forcefully explains the reason for passing Senate Bill 250 in the following:

WHEREAS, there is definitive evidence indicating that human activity has

> increased the level of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere that contribute significantly 18 to climate change; and

> WHEREAS, Climate change, if left unchecked, will have detrimental effects on

> human health, natural systems, wildlife, and infrastructure that will dramatically increase

> costs for individuals, communities, businesses, and government; and

> WHEREAS, The climate crisis threatens the ability of federal, State, and local government to deliver services, including fire protection, emergency services, flood control, 24 health care, and social services, to populations vulnerable to the effects of climate change;

WHEREAS, Maryland has 3,190 miles of shoreline that is increasingly being threatened by sea level rise caused by the climate crisis; and

> WHEREAS, Maryland has billions of dollars of real estate at risk due to sea level

> rise; and

> WHEREAS, Scientific consensus demands that the increase in global temperature

> be limited to not more than 1.5 degrees Celsius to mitigate the most destructive and

> dangerous effects of climate change; and

> WHEREAS, The time to take action to reduce climate change is now; now, therefore,

> SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

> That the Laws of Maryland read as follows-

**At this point Bill 250 explains in great detail how the counties will be responsible for their Climate Plans as a critical step in responding to the climate crisis by:**



- 1 Increasing the county's use of renewable energy,
- 2 expanding energy efficiency programs for residential and commercial use,
- 3 reducing energy consumption
- 4 reducing and eliminating the use of fossil fuels in new buildings,
- 5 retrofitting existing buildings to become 100% electric
- 6 transitioning all vehicles, including buses & school buses, owned or operated by the county to zero emission vehicles
- 7 providing clean, efficient & reliable public transportation for the county
- 8 designing & implementing safe infrastructure in the county to promote alternative modes of transportation
- 9 increasing the availability of electric charging stations
- 10 encouraging the use of non fossil fuel vehicles in the county
- 11 conducting a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory of existing conditions in the county
- 12 establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets
- 13 sequestering carbon dioxide generated in the county through habitat preservation, increasing urban forests and carbon farming
- 14 developing a plan to identify the most vulnerable communities to the effects of climate change
- 15 developing a plan for addressing the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable communities in the county including: mitigating the heat island effect; providing access to emergency cooling; improving air quality
- 16 addressing climate-related health care needs
- 17 establishing energy efficient programs including financial support for heating and cooling systems
- 18 providing adaptation strategies to minimize the risks and impacts of climate change in the county
- 19 costs associated with the plan

All of the county crisis plans shall complement state & federal guidance and programs and prioritize actions that have the most meaningful impact on addressing the effects of climate change in the county. Presumably federal funds under the IRA will be available for certain parts of the Act.

For these reasons the Climate Justice Wing enthusiastically supports Bill 250 as a critical milestone in the state of Maryland's pathway to a safe and sustainable climate.

Sincerely,

Nanci Wilkinson  
Environmental Justice Ministry  
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

# **SB250TrevorHenneberySGA\_fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Trevor Hennebery

Position: FAV

**Committees:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Testimony on:** SB250, Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

**Position:** Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy & the Environment Committee,

The University of Maryland – College Park, Student Government Association supports SB250 that requires each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change.

The effects of climate change are seen already, and we know how it will further affect our lives. My feelings and perspectives on climate change are shared by my generation, as well as those younger than me. Right now, we know the climate crisis is going to harm us, but passing SB250 could help.

You may not see the worst effects of climate change, but my generation will. We will be the ones whose houses are swallowed by the sea. We will be the ones who must ration our scarce food. We will be the ones unable to enjoy summer, for it has become too scorching to withstand. We will be the ones always fearing the next hurricane that will wipe away everything we have worked for. But you, those at the levers of power, have the power to stop this in which my generation will suffer. We will not have the chance to right the mistakes of the previous generations and their pollution; it will be too late for that.

I wish to be a politician in the future, and it pains me that, no matter what, no policy of mine will be able to help prevent or adapt to climate change. We will already be living in a world impacted so severely by climate change that the idea of stopping it will seem pointless, if you do not act today. Right now, the impacts of climate change will fall on my generation's backs. But the duty to help the future Marylanders falls on you, now. You have the opportunity to make the decisions that future generations cannot.

By passing HB147, you help to prepare the societies of your children for a future drastically altered by climate change. While it does not undo the damage created by climate change, it is truly a step towards the new world we must construct to adapt to these harsh realities. I, and the younger generation, would be grateful for its success.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB250.

Thank you,



*Trevor Hennebery, Student Government Association Legislative Staff  
University of Maryland — College Park,  
thenny@terpmail.umd.edu*

# **SB250VishalSivasankar\_SGAfav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Vishal Sivasankar

Position: FAV

**Committees:** Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**Testimony on:** SB250, Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

**Position:** Favorable

8 February 2023

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the members of the Education, Energy & the Environment Committee,

Cities may be different, but the stories remain more or less the same. We all have faced our own share of extreme weather events caused by climate change. It's either flooding or drought, polar vortex, or heatwave. We witness these extreme events throughout the nation. With obvious evidence and scientific data showing us what we need to do, it is only sensible to act upon it to save our future.

I am a Mechanical Engineering student. I should be working on creating systems to make our lives easier. I should be researching novel sustainable materials and technologies to reduce waste, not pleading with everyone here to make immediate and bold climate action. As a student, I cannot help but feel overwhelmed and helpless in the face of this climate crisis. But I also know that I am not alone. I know that you, too, care deeply about the future of our state, our country, and our planet. And I know that you all have the power to make a difference.

That is precisely why I am imploring you all to take a stand, today. It is truly exhausting playing catch up with climate change. Let us grab the bull by its horn and stop the climate crisis dead in its tracks. Let us ensure that we have a handle on this crisis before it spirals any further out of control. This calls for a comprehensive, climate crisis plan that addresses the root causes of this crisis and takes bold action apriori to mitigate its impacts. A plan that prioritizes renewable energy, encourages sustainable transportation and protects our vulnerable communities.

Climate Crisis Plan essentially provides a much-needed guideline for the counties to address the root causes of the climate crisis and help in their climate conservation efforts. So I ask you, as our elected representatives, to take this issue seriously and make it a priority. Let us ensure that Maryland becomes the frontrunner that is ready to lead the nation on climate action and not wait until it is too late. In case you missed it, the time to act is now.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on HB147.



Thank you,  
*Vishal Sivasankar,*  
*Mechanical Engineering,*  
*University of Maryland, College Park*  
*vsivasan@terpmail.umd.edu*

# **BDC - 2023 - SB 250- climate change county plan(2)**

Uploaded by: Aaron Greenfield

Position: FWA

**To: Education, Energy and the Environment**  
**From: Bioenergy Devco**  
**Subject: Senate Bill 250, Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement**  
**Date: February 9, 2023**  
**Position: Favorable with Amendment**

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Bioenergy Devco supports with amendment Senate Bill 250, Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement.

This testimony is offered on behalf of Bioenergy Development Company (BDC), the foremost providers of anaerobic digester solutions and is a pioneer in this sector. For over 20 years and more than 250 biogas plants built and 140 managed throughout the world, our team of experts in the fields of: engineering, biology, chemistry and the microbial sciences, agronomy and soils, designers s has significant experience in the design, construction and operation of anaerobic digester power plants and thus offers expertise in service, consultation and biological support. With BDC’s U.S. headquarters in Maryland, our first industrial scale anaerobic digester has been completed in Jessup at the Maryland Food Center Authority.

Senate Bill 250 requires each county to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in the county. Each county must submit its plan to MDE for review and feedback. The bill prescribes specific areas that the plan must address and the manner by which the county should prepare the plan.

Amendment: BDC supports this legislation and would urge an amendment to require the county plans to encourage the use of “organics recycling” as a tool to reduce greenhouse gas emission.

On page 4, line 6, strike “AND”; in line 7, strike “.”; after “PLAN” add “; AND”; after line 7 insert “(XVIII)ENCOURAGING THE USE OF ORGANICS RECYCLING AND SEPARATION OF FOOD WASTE IN PUBLIC FACILITIES.”

State Policy: In 2019, the General Assembly passed House Bill 510 defining “organics recycling” as processes in which organic material are collected, separated or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. Practices like composting and anaerobic digestion are examples of “organic recycling.” Section 9-1701(n)(1) of the Environment Article.

Additionally, in 2021, the General Assembly passed HB 264/SB 483 Solid Waste Management – Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals, requiring. Beginning January 1, 2023, commercial entities that generate more than 2 tons per week of food residuals and are located within 30 miles of an organics recycling



facility are required to separate and divert food residuals away from final disposal in landfills and incinerators.

Given the General Assembly's support for organics recycling which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encouraging the use of "organics recycling" within each county plan benefits the environment and is consistent with state policy.

For these reasons, Bioenergy Devco respectfully requests a favorable report with amendment on Senate Bill 250.

For additional information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield at 410.446.1992



**SB 250 AMENDMENT FOR HEARING ON 2-9-23.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ben Kramer

Position: FWA



**SB0250/743021/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

31 JAN 23  
18:40:25

BY: Senator Kramer  
(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 250

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 4, in line 6, strike "AND"; after line 6, insert:

"(XVII) ENCOURAGING THE USE OF ORGANICS RECYCLING  
AND SEPARATION OF FOOD WASTE IN PUBLIC FACILITIES; AND";

and in line 7, strike "(XVII)" and substitute "(XVIII)".

# **SB 250 - Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requi**

Uploaded by: Donna Edwards

Position: FWA



# MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Balto. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

*President*

**Donna S. Edwards**

*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Gerald W. Jackson**

**SB 250 - Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
February 9, 2023**

**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT**

**Donna S. Edwards  
President**

**Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO**

Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 250 with amendments. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

SB 250 requires counties to create climate crisis plans and submit them to the state for review and feedback. As the impacts of climate change become more visible in our everyday lives, it is important that the state starts to plan concretely for how we will adapt. New energy production, electric grid expansion, energy efficiency retrofits, and rising seawater mitigation will all be massive undertakings that have to occur with coordination on the state and local level. Over the last few years, Maryland passed legislation with substantial goals for greenhouse gas reduction and new energy production standards, but these bills did not include details on the steps required for achieving those goals. SB 250 helps make those goals possible by requiring counties to take on some of the planning responsibilities.

We believe that SB 250 can be improved by requiring counties to also consider the impacts that a transition to a green economy will have on workers and good paying jobs. If we are not careful, state and local funding to implement climate crisis plans could accidentally undermine existing good jobs and create entirely new industries with low pay and limited benefits. This approach will make our transition to a fossil free economy even harder. Low paying jobs result in families requiring additional support from the state in the form of Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) grants and other financial assistance. State subsidies that could be going to directly assist in green energy creation will end up getting used to subsidize energy bills of underpaid workers. Countless Federal programs created under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act contain provisions that require compliance with prevailing wage standards, "Buy America" provisions, and union consultation. Climate crisis plans might be undermining their own abilities to implement the plans they are tasked with drafting if they don't incorporate information on their impact on the creation and preservation of good jobs.

We encourage the committee to amend SB 250 to include the following:

*Add a new paragraph with the following text to page 4, between line 7 and 8:*

*“(XVIII) Impacts on the preservation or creation of new good jobs. Good jobs are defined as employment paying at least 150% of the state minimum wage, providing career advancement training, affording employees the right to bargain collectively for wages and benefits, providing paid leave, being considered covered employment for the purposes of unemployment insurance benefits in accordance with Title 8 of the Labor and Employment Article, being compliant with Federal and State Wage and Hour Laws for the previous 3 years, offering employer-provided health insurance benefits with monthly premiums that do not exceed 8.5% of the employees net monthly earnings, and offering retirement benefits.*

We also urge the committee to strike Subsection IV under the minimum plan requirements (i.e. “Reducing and eliminating the use of fossil fuels in the design of new buildings in the county;”) because the counties have not had the time to study its impact on the electrical grid. Some estimates state that full electrification for heating, cooking, and transportation would require triple the grid infrastructure currently in place by 2050.<sup>1</sup> County level climate plans should leave these requirements out until relevant conversations can take place at the federal and state level.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report for SB 250 after accepting the amendments.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.princeton.edu/news/2020/12/15/big-affordable-effort-needed-america-reach-net-zero-emissions-2050-princeton-study>

# **sb250Maryland Overview - Strengthening Resilience**

Uploaded by: Erin Boulware

Position: FWA



<b>Date:</b>	February 9, 2023
<b>To:</b>	Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
<b>From:</b>	WTW (Willis Towers Watson)
<b>Subject:</b>	SB250- Environment- Climate Crisis Plan- Requirement
<b>Position:</b>	FWA

We are WTW and last year we completed a definition and assessment of the consequential risks that Florida faces for their House of Representatives. Climate and weather-related risks were a key part of this assessment.

Our output was recommendations on the investments to protect the state prioritized according to their efficiency and impact. The recommendations provide a way forward for the state that has the potential to save its citizens billions of dollars in damages and in mitigation investment costs in the coming decade.

As you consider SB 250, we wanted to make you aware of this work.

For your consideration, we would assert that every county can and should approach setting priorities for protection against climate-related risks in the same way:

1. Using a quantitative, data-driven approach that prioritizes expenditures according to their return on investment
2. Evaluating climate risks over 10-, 20- and 30-year periods
3. Reporting back to Annapolis using a consistent format and methodology so the State can set state-wide priorities with confidence

On the following pages, we've included an overview of the work completed for the State of Florida. To learn more about the work we completed or for details on our capabilities, please refer to the below resources.

<b>Resources</b>
<a href="#">Florida Report</a>
<a href="#">WTW Presentation to Florida House Pandemics and Public Emergencies Committee</a> <i>(Beginning at Min. 34)</i>
<a href="#">WTW's Portfolio Approach to Risk</a>

Sincerely,  
Phillip A. Ellis, Managing Director

Erin Boulware, Director



# Strengthening Florida's Resilience to Major Risks

In 2021 and 2022, WTW worked with the Florida House of Representatives to develop a state-wide risk mitigation strategy.

This state-wide risk mitigation strategy helped the state to:

**Utilize one consistent framework.** A risk strategy in a single language and framework allowed the State to compare investment options and make holistic decisions across traditionally siloed departments and agencies.

**Enable transparency.** Our work fostered transparency across State agencies and departments, as well as for the public.

**Break away from the political cycle.** Analyzing risk through the lens of an extended time horizon provided perspective that looked beyond the crises of the day and the political cycle, toward more strategic risk mitigation investments.

**Invest in efficient resilience.** By evaluating risks in portfolio, the State could understand its total risk profile and identify the risk mitigation actions that deliver the most “bang for its buck” or maximize risk reduction for spend.





The legislature was presented with risk mitigation actions that efficiently reduce the state's overall risk.

Our team of actuaries, statisticians and risk consultants helped to:



Define what is most important to Florida and its mission



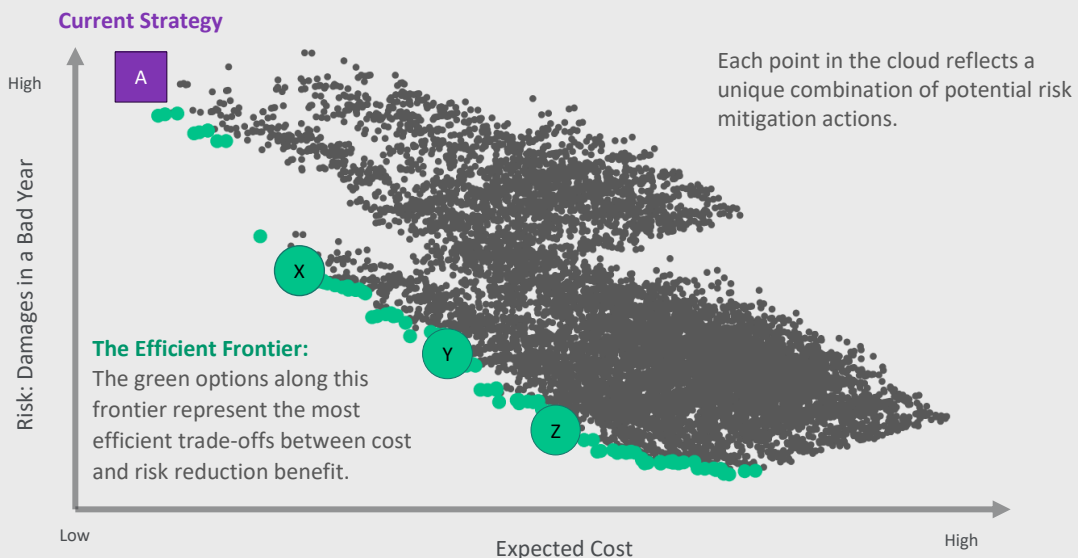
Identify and prioritize Florida's most significant risks:



Quantify priority risks in terms of impact and probability, and evaluate potential risk mitigation options in terms of cost and risk reduction



Evaluate risk mitigation options in portfolio and highlight strategies that efficiently protect the State's priorities



Outline a plan to support ongoing evaluation and efficiency



## Phillip A. Ellis

Managing Director, Risk & Analytics

### Relevant Experience/Specialization

Phil has more than thirty years of experience advising some of the world's largest and most complex organizations on issues of strategy, risk, and organizational development. Phil founded WTW's Strategic Risk Consulting business and now leads client development globally for WTW's Risk & Analytics division. He leads the expansion of our Connected Risk Intelligence platform globally. He is based in New York City.

Phil has extensive experience in the public sector. For example, he led the definition and assessment of risks facing the state of Florida for their House of Representatives. He developed global investment strategies for European groups as they privatized and expanded from their home bases.

Phil joined WTW in London in 2006. Prior to joining WTW he led a global practice and major client relationships for the Boston Consulting Group, and prior to that, for Booz Allen and Hamilton, where he also was a member of the Board of Directors and head of the Audit Committee.

### Education and Credentials

Phil holds degrees in finance and applied economics from MIT Sloan (M.S. Management), in Science, Technology and Public Policy from the George Washington University (M.A.), and in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of California, Davis (B.S.). He has been published in the Financial Times and The Economist and speaks widely on risk topics around the world.



## Erin Boulware

Director, Risk & Analytics  
Head of Central/Western US Client Development

### Relevant Experience/Specialization

Erin is part of a global leadership team focused on client development across the spectrum of businesses and capabilities that make up WTW's Risk & Analytics group. Erin focuses on strategic growth initiatives, cross-practice synergies, new product development and distribution, and the advancement of risk analytics governance models.

Erin is also a consultant, leveraging WTW's comprehensive array of risk finance analytical offerings to empower clients to make optimal, empirically based decisions.

Erin is based in Denver, CO.

Over the course of her career, Erin has worked with clients across North America in a wide variety of industries. She has significant experience in managing alternative risk financing programs, including such elements as loss modelling, premium development, portfolio management, TPA oversight, coverage analysis, compliance requirements, credit risk management and contract negotiation.

Prior to joining WTW in 2016, Erin spent 13 years as an underwriting officer in the captive group at Travelers Insurance.

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Erin earned her BA from Hamilton College with a double concentration in Economics and Government. She graduated Magna Cum Laude, with Honors in Government.

# **sb250Maryland Overview - Strengthening Resilience**

Uploaded by: Phillip Ellis

Position: FWA



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<b>From:</b>	WTW (Willis Towers Watson)
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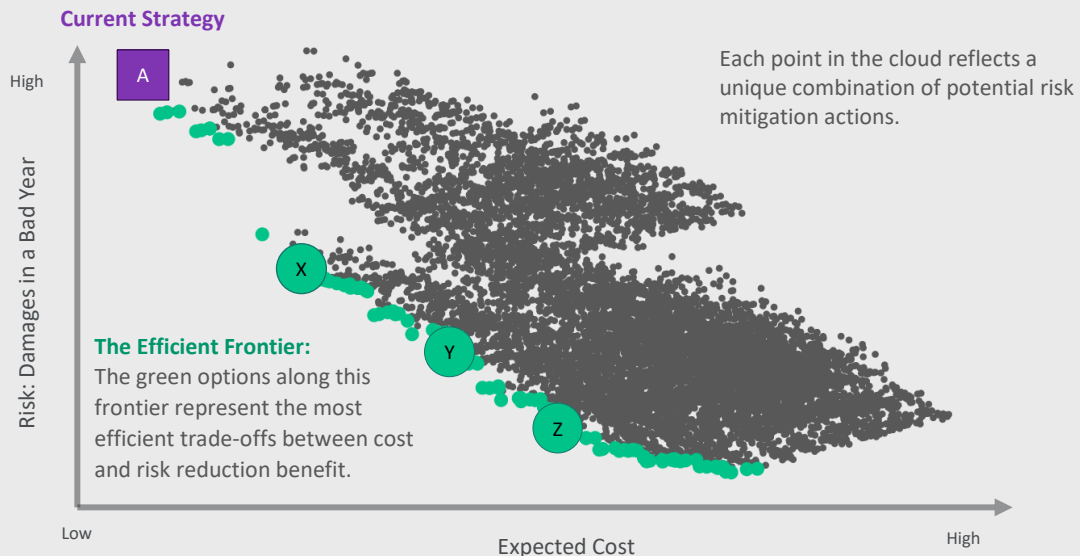
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# **SB0250\_MDCC\_Environment\_Climate Crisis Plan\_Requir**

Uploaded by: Andrew Griffin

Position: UNF





**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Unfavorable**

**Senate Bill 250**

**Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**

**Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee**

**Thursday, February 9, 2023**

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,400 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

SB 250 requires each county to prepare a climate crisis plan and to submit that plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment for review and feedback on or before June 1, 2024. Each county would be required to finalize their plan on or before January 1, 2025, and then review and update their plan once every 3 years.

The Chamber is concerned with the variability in the county-by-county plans that would result from SB 250. Maryland businesses struggle to contend with the differing laws and regulations that currently exist across Maryland's 24 political subdivisions. Regarding the issue of climate change, it is common practice for businesses to develop one greenhouse gas reduction or sustainability plan to implement across their locations with an eye to the State's objectives and timelines. SB 250 would potentially add 24 different sets of regulations, likely stricter than State requirements, with varying degrees of implementation timelines on top of what they are already complying with.

With Maryland having passed an aggressive new statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan during the 2022 legislative session, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce would urge the committee to not consider layering 24 different local requirements on top of what are already some of the most comprehensive statewide standards in the country.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on SB 250.

**SB0250-EEE\_MACo\_OPP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: UNF



## **Senate Bill 250**

### *Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: February 9, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 250. The bill requires all counties to adopt a broad and unwieldy climate crisis plan, even though counties would not have the ability to implement it.

SB 250 is clearly introduced with the goal of reducing emissions and energy consumption across the public and private sectors. Counties both recognize and support their proper role as players in helping to address and mitigate climate change. In every corner of the state, counties are taking action to reduce emissions and leave a healthy environment for the next generation.

While counties already partner with the State on stewardship responsibilities, SB 250 presumes that the county level is the only tier of government suitable for developing these plans. While counties frequently seek authority and flexibility under state law, a matter as widespread as climate response stretches beyond political boundaries – and has generally been best addressed at the watershed, regional, or larger scope.

Multiple Maryland counties have adopted climate action plans, with varying focus. However, the breadth and scope of the plans envisioned under SB 250 are broader and far more all-encompassing than any amount of authority currently vested in county governing bodies. *The proposed plan includes aspirations to change not only public but private buildings, vehicles, energy systems, and the like.* Mandating each individual county to develop plans for mass transit strains the imagination – as no intra-county system would pass any reasonable cost/benefit analysis.

Requiring these county plans, without any capacity to affect their components, underscores the incorrect placement of these plans at the county level. Counties lack the authority to back up the broad vision of the plans, and almost certainly lack both the expertise and the resources to single-handedly generate a product with the level of detail required under SB 250.

Counties are already taking actions to mitigate climate change, but the framework proposed in SB 250 is not tenable. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report for SB 250.

# **HB147 & SB250 - Climate Crisis Plan - LOO.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kaleigh Leager

Position: UNF



**House Bill 147/SB250**

Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

Position: **OPPOSE**

Date: 2/9/23

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The Caroline County Commissioners **OPPOSE** HB147/SB250 Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement. The Caroline County Commissioners, in partnership with the Caroline County Department of Emergency Services and the Caroline County Environmental Health Office have analyzed this legislation and determined the following:

To implement this legislation, as proposed, would require the County to hire a contractor to conduct an appropriate impact study that addresses all the facets of the bill. It is estimated that it will cost between \$50k-\$75k to hire an appropriate vendor, and the findings of the vendor will take many years to implement at a cost that vastly exceeds the County's current operating budget. Additionally, the County will have to incur administrative expenses associated with hiring additional personnel to implement the proposed programs as well as write and maintain the required plans.

In addition, this legislation does not address the following:

- The loss of shoreline and billions of dollars in real estate due to climate change and natural processes. It does not mention any planning or zoning requirements to plan for this inevitable loss.
- Space for renewable energy.
- Does not address the impact to drinking water supply – saltwater intrusion to wells.
- Does not address the loss of onsite sewage disposal.
- Does not address the impact to existing public sewer & water infrastructure.
- Does not address the disposal and lack of recycling of renewable energy equipment.
- Does not address the necessary upgrades to public and private infrastructure to support increase demand for electricity.
- Does not address the loss of revenue from decreased gasoline taxes for infrastructure maintenance and expansion.
- Large shift of responsibility from State to County governments with limited direction, goals or standards stated or implied.
- Does not mention any aid, assistance, or resources for the counties in drafting these plans.
- The inherent limitations or viability of alternative transportation and public transportation in a rural setting.
- Acquiring the necessary real estate for the sequestering of carbon in any county.

- The requirement of changes to commercial energy use has significant financial and regulatory implications.
- Doesn't mention or recognized any county plans already in place.
- Doesn't seek any input from county entities.
- Addition requirements to county budgets for new required programs and administration.
- Lastly, there is not source of funding listed or implied for any of the requirements. This implies counties will have to absorb these costs and will lead to higher property tax rates for all.

With this, we respectfully request an unfavorable report on **HB147/SB250**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Travis Breeding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

J. Travis Breeding  
President  
Caroline County Commissioners

# **SB250 Written.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kirk McCauley

Position: UNF



WMDA/CAR Service Station  
and Automotive Repair Association

February 8, 2023

Chair: Brian Feldman

Members Education, Energy, and The Environment Committee

RE: SB250 Environment- Climate Crisis Plan-Requirements

Position: Unfavorable

Maryland General Assembly was elected to make decision on subjects this bill addresses. Lay down a uniform set of standards and Laws that have been reviewed and voted on by 141 votes in the house and 47 in senate.

Requiring counties to propose a plan and implement puts it in the hands of very small group in each county. Maryland could end up with a set of different regulations in 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Businesses that have multiple county locations would find it difficult to navigate through the hodge podge of regulations. Not only confusing to business owners, but citizens as well.

Please give SB250 an Unfavorable report

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and independent repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or [kmccauley@wmda.ne](mailto:kmccauley@wmda.ne)



# **SB 250 Letter of Opposition.pdf**

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: UNF

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building,  
2 West Wing 11 Bladen St.,  
Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: Opposition SB 250 Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)**

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 250 Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement (Better Together to Save Our Weather Act of 2022)**. MBIA **Opposes** the Act in its current version.

This bill would require that individual counties create their own individual climate action plans to be submitted to the Department of Energy for review. MBIA respectfully opposes this measure. The effort to combat climate change need to be undertaken in a coordinated way and this structure will insure that Maryland has no coordinated policy for combatting this issue. The specific guidelines in the bill do not allow for counties to make their own decisions on what steps they want to use resources to address and a fully electrified grid or fleet of vehicles may not be feasible for each individual county. Additionally, there is no funding mechanisms in this bill to offset the costs of the plans and it will which will result in unfunded mandates in the individual counties hampering their ability to effectively utilize their resources.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

**SB250\_UNF\_MRA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sarah Price

Position: UNF



**SB250 Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
**February 9, 2023**

**Position: Unfavorable**

**Background:** SB250 would require each county to prepare a climate crisis plan.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Association (MRA) would urge against requiring climate crisis plans at the county level. The State has already taken steps to establish a plan in Maryland to address and offset the effects of climate change, and the addition of local plans would create a patchwork of policies with a variety of standards and compliance deadlines. The lack of consistent statewide policies creates burdens and confusion for multijurisdictional businesses. MRA understands the importance of addressing the oncoming climate crisis and would encourage the legislature to prioritize statewide plans with clear and consistent metrics based on comprehensive studies.

For these reasons, we would urge an unfavorable report on SB250. Thank you for your consideration.

# **SB 250 - Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requi**

Uploaded by: Tom Ballentine

Position: UNF



February 8, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Oppose: SB 250 - Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement**

Dear, Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The NAIOP Maryland Chapters representing more than 700 companies involved in all aspects of commercial, industrial, and mixed-use real estate, oppose Senate Bill 250. NAIOP supports coordinated implementation of state climate mitigation plans and policies developed using the framework set out in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA). Our members are concerned that the local plan requirement established by SB 250 will result in a patchwork of inconsistent, uncoordinated, untested climate policies.

Maryland has reduced economy-wide emissions 30% compared to 2006 levels, exceeding the targets set by the General Assembly. The climate mitigation and adaptation strategies that achieved these results were developed and managed through the authority and guidance of the GGRA. The General Assembly required that those plans reduce emissions while also meeting performance metrics related to economic benefits, cost-effectiveness, energy price and reliability. SB 250 contains none of those performance requirements nor does it require that local governments adopt common definitions or methodologies that align with state polices.

Choosing the bundles of practices included the climate plans developed by MDE are tested using Integrated Assessment Models [IAMs] that evaluate the emissions reduction potential and economic impacts of policy alternatives. These models are expensive and specialized. Local governments are not likely to have the expertise or resources to model the likely results of their plans. If they did, it is questionable that models could accurately assess emissions and economic outcomes at the county scale making adequate policy development difficult to accomplish.

The policy levers that can reduce emissions from automobiles, set appliance standards or modify utility and energy policy are generally not within the authority of local government but lie with state government, the Public Service Commission, or the federal government. As easier, cost-effective emissions reductions are accomplished, implementation will require larger incentives and subsidies that may be beyond the ability of local governments to finance. These barriers to implementation argue against mandating local climate plans.

**For these reasons, NAIOP respectfully recommends your unfavorable report on Senate Bill 250.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T.M. Ballentine".

Tom Ballentine, Vice President for Policy  
NAIOP Maryland Chapters -*The Association for Commercial Real Estate*

cc: Education, Energy and the Environment Committee Members  
Nick Manis – Manis, Canning Assoc.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Secretary

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman  
Chair, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

### **RE: SB 250 – Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement – Letter of Information**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information for Senate Bill (SB) 250 – Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement. SB 250 requires each jurisdiction to develop and submit for approval to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) a climate crisis action plan to address the effects of climate change.

Climate change is a public health issue which threatens not only Maryland's environment and economic vitality, but also the health of communities. Failure to address climate change will exacerbate environmental justice issues and health disparities, as under-resourced communities will bear a disproportionate burden of climate change effects.

Indirect health impacts include the occurrence of more food- or water-related infections and respiratory diseases because of the anticipated changes in pollen amounts, air pollution concentrations, and environmental damage due to climate change. More direct health impacts of climate change include heat stroke from extreme heat events, flooding, food-borne illnesses, and diseases from mosquitoes and ticks. Climate impacts can also contribute to anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues.

Health indicators of climate change can significantly aid jurisdictions as they develop, evaluate, and update their climate crisis plans. MDH's Environmental Public Health Tracking Portal<sup>1</sup> and the 2016 Maryland Climate and Health Profile Report<sup>2</sup> include health data related to climate change, and MDH will continue to work with MDE and other stakeholders to collect and provide health data to the public and local jurisdictions.

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Environmental Public Health Tracking  
<https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OEHFP/EH/tracking/Pages/home.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Maryland Climate and Health Profile Report, April 2016.  
<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Marylander/Documents/MCCC/Publications/Reports/MarylandClimateandHealthProfileReport.pdf>



If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting Secretary

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Uploaded by: Tyler Abbott

Position: INFO



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary Designate  
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

February 09, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Miller Senate Office Building, Suite 2W  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

### **Re: Senate Bill 250- Environment – Climate Crisis Plan – Requirement**

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) has reviewed Senate Bill 250 and would like to provide the following information. SB 250 would require each county in Maryland to prepare a climate crisis plan to address the effects of climate change in the county and to submit its plan to MDE for review and feedback on or before June 1, 2024. Each plan must address, at a minimum, 17 enumerated areas of concern.

Maryland has the most ambitious climate goal of any state in the United States. Per the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, MDE is required, by June 2023, to produce a proposed climate plan for the State including measures to reduce emissions 60% by 2031 while producing net economic and job benefits for Maryland.

Counties and municipalities play a critical role in climate mitigation and adaptation. However, the way counties approach this role differs based on each jurisdiction's available resources and capacity. Some counties in the State have a formal climate plan in place. Others are incorporating resilience and adaptation responses as part of their comprehensive land use plans and zoning, water and sewer plans, emergency response plans, and the implementation of certain permits issued by the Department, such as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permits. MDE will continue to be a partner to all counties and collaborate in ensuring the State climate plan is incorporated in local plans, programs, and practices.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor SB 250 during the committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-260-6301 or by e-mail at [Gabrielle.Leach@maryland.gov](mailto:Gabrielle.Leach@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Leach

cc: The Honorable Ben Kramer  
Christopher R. Hoagland, Air and Radiation Administration