



February 19, 2020

Senate Bill 926
Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Position: SUPPORT

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 926 - Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act. This Bill implements a number of important practices at the state level that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our battle to combat climate change.

In Anne Arundel County we are working hard to address impacts on our communities attributable to climate change. For the first time, the Administration is requiring agency capital budget requests to take into account climate resilience. We are leading a multi-jurisdictional effort with Charles and Queen Anne’s Counties and the City of Annapolis to create a comprehensive inventory of infrastructure, assets, and programs, that will be threatened by climate change. This effort, convened and coordinated by the University of Maryland Center for Global Sustainability is currently producing a Climate Resilience Action Strategy. We are partnering with BGE to install a network of electric vehicle charging stations. And we have strengthened our forest conservation, stormwater management, and other environmental regulations

But we cannot do it alone, which is why this legislation is so important. From requiring MDE to develop a plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions so the state can achieve net-zero emissions by 2045, to requiring the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to adopt new solar energy system building standards, to establishing zero-emission requirements for vehicles in the State fleet and specified tree planting requirements, this legislation includes several forward-thinking approaches to tackling the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

It is also critical that when we confront climate change, we hear from and take into account those who are most affected by it. That is why the two workgroups proposed by this bill are so important. By creating a geographically, economically, and demographically diverse Climate Justice Workgroup, this Bill will ensure that those communities most adversely and disproportionately affected by climate change will be heard when it comes to how we reduce pollution and allocate investments. And by creating a Climate Jobs Workgroup of people from clean energy and energy-intensive industries as well as labor and environmental justice organizations, the Bill ensures that opportunities for workforce development and training related to renewable energy and other clean energy technologies will be a part of the strategy in confronting climate change.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County Respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 926.