



GLEN ECHO HEIGHTS MOBILIZATION

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Sponsor: Senator Pinsky
Testimony on: SB 0926 – Climate Solutions Act – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act
Position: Support
Hearing Date: February 19, 2020

Glen Echo Heights Mobilization submits this letter in support of SB 0926, a bill to amend the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act’s climate goals to comport with the goals of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This bill will align Maryland’s emissions goals with leading science and join the forward-thinking states with stronger emissions reduction requirements.

The Climate Solutions Act (CSA) would:

- Set new requirements for the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030.
- Set a goal of net zero emissions by 2045.
- Require the Maryland Department of Environment to revamp the current draft climate plan to comply with these deadlines.
- Take concrete steps to reduce state climate pollution including planting 1 million trees per decade; expanding the EmPOWER program; electrifying the state vehicle fleet; requiring all new publicly funded buildings to be LEED Zero Energy compliant; and compelling rooftop solar for new buildings above a certain size.
- Create two workgroups to address both climate justice and the development of “green” jobs.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- **Maryland would join communities in other states that have already set deadlines for achieving net zero emissions in their economies.**
- **Maryland would join communities reliant on science rather than politics for developing our children’s futures.**
- **Maryland could spearhead a campaign to make our State a source of clean energy manufacturing and other climate jobs, which will retain brainpower in America rather than transporting R & D for future technology to other forward thinking countries.**
- **CSA can help Maryland meet clean renewable energy goals of the 2019 Clean Energy Jobs Act.**

Conclusion

This bill provides multiple benefits to Maryland citizens. Of principle importance to our organization, it supports Maryland’s existing commitments towards and future development of clean energy. We urge a favorable report by this Committee.