



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 926

Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act

CBF POSITION: SUPPORT

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

DATE: February 19, 2020

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) SUPPORTS SB 926. This legislation commits Maryland to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 while including appropriate estimates of methane-caused warming potential, acknowledging the need for climate justice and climate jobs, and setting for substantial statewide tree cover goals.

SB 926 is a comprehensive approach to improving the State's existing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act. It acknowledges the most recent and alarming science about the need to accelerate greenhouse gas reductions to prevent catastrophic environmental consequences. It also acknowledges that disadvantaged communities and people who currently work in fossil fuel industries will be disproportionately affected by some of the necessary adaptations and transitions to climate change.

Most importantly, CBF applauds the acknowledgement of the role of trees as a natural filter, not just for carbon sequestration, but also the myriad benefits trees provide to protecting and improving water quality as well as biodiversity. The commitment to add one million trees per year is probably the most cost-effective action that can be taken to address both climate change and water quality.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, CBF urges a FAVORABLE report on SB 926. If you have any questions, contact Doug Myers, Maryland Senior Scientist at 443.482.2168 or dmyers@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513

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 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.