

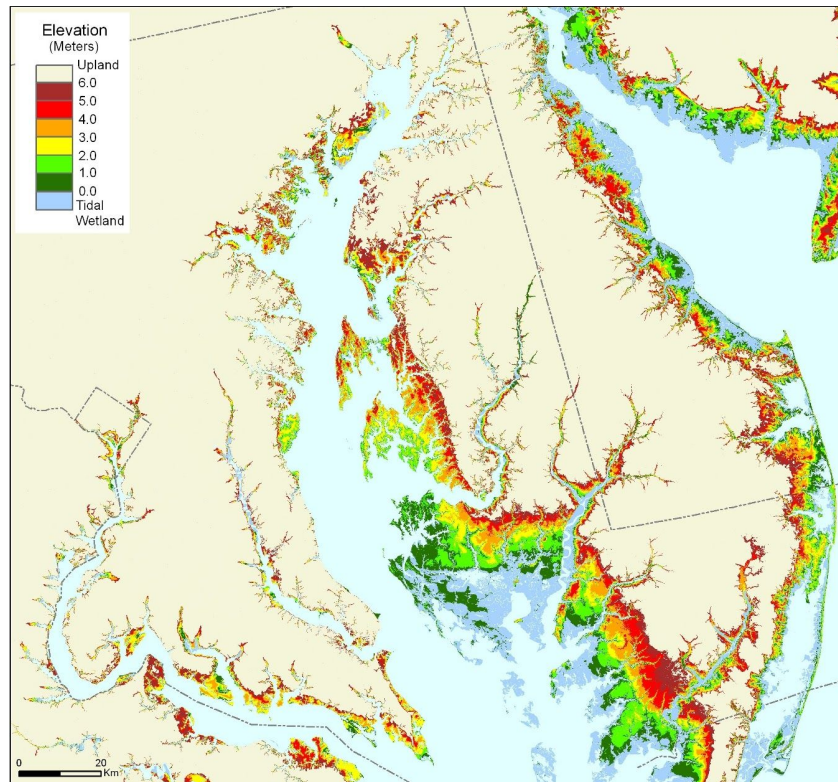
Bill: FUTURE Act - HB 803

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairwoman McIntosh and members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund, and as a UMBC alumna, I strongly support the FUTURE Act.

Lao Tzu said that “If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading” and right now, Maryland is heading toward climate disaster. Last month, [new satellite data](#) found that rates of melting ice around the world match the worst case scenarios from scientific modeling. [In those worst case scenarios](#), the oceans rise 8 feet by 2100. [The map](#) below shows that if we let this happen, then children born today will live to see Ocean City disappear beneath the waves



Elevations of Land Close to Sea Level

Elevations are above spring high water, which is the average high tide during new and full moons, and approximately the inland boundary of tidal wetlands. This map is a general graphical representation of elevations in the area depicted, not designed to estimate the precise elevations at specific locations. Due to the use of a variety of data sources, the accuracy of this map varies. Elevations at specific locations are generally within 30 cm above or below the elevation depicted along the Eastern Shore south of Rock Hall and in Baltimore County, 75 cm in Anne Arundel County and the states of Delaware and New Jersey, and 150 cm elsewhere.

Source: J.G. Titus and J Wang. 2008. "Maps of Lands Close to Sea Level along the Mid-Atlantic Coast". US Environmental Protection Agency.

But we still have a window to avoid the worst. Global experts have told us that if wealthy nations cut carbon emissions by at least 60% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2045, we will be able to maintain survivable conditions. Our state's own Department of Environment concurs with this net zero target. Right now, the General Assembly is considering the Climate Solutions Now Act to commit our state to these overall scientific deadlines. But when it comes to actually reaching these goals, it is so critical that every sector of our economy works to cut carbon emissions as soon as possible. That is why CCAN Action Fund is strongly in support of the aptly named FUTURE Act. It is essential that the state does everything in its power to lead the way, and the net zero by 2030 goals for public universities within the bill are both feasible and necessary. We know that many sectors will require a longer term transition to net zero; those that can reach those goals more quickly have a moral and scientific obligation to do so.

Overwhelmingly, [polls show that young people support climate action](#). As statewide climate organizer, I work closely with many high school climate activists, some of whom are considering where to go to college now. As a proud UMBC alumna, I have advocated for them to consider staying in-state, knowing that Maryland has historically been a net exporter of college students. In speaking with those students, they have indicated that a net zero commitment would be a huge draw to applying here. While young people are working hard to get their degree and become the professionals of tomorrow, they do not want to worry about whether the institution they are learning from is contributing to the climate difficulties they will be facing in their future.

I ask for your favorable report of this bill.

Signed,

Emily Frias
Maryland Grassroots Coordinator
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund
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