



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

January 26, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky  
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West – Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 414 – *Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021*

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 414. This bill requires the State to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero GHG by 2045. The bill establishes a Net-Zero School Loan Fund which would assist in the construction of schools that meet net-zero energy requirements and establishes a Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities focused on addressing GHG emission in disproportionately affected communities. In addition, the bill establishes a workgroup to address workers affected by the downsizing of the fossil fuels industry, establishes energy conservation requirements for new buildings, and establishes a goal of planting and helping maintain in the State 5,000,000 sustainable trees by 2030.

In 2017, the Montgomery County Council declared a climate emergency calling on all levels of government to “initiate a massive global mobilization to restore a safe climate and build a sustainable economy” and “transform the climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2027 and reaching 100% elimination by 2035 and initiate large-scale efforts to remove excess carbon from the atmosphere.” The provisions in this bill will assist the County as it seeks to achieve its target of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions entirely.

For the aforementioned reasons, I support Senate Bill 414 and respectfully request a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Marc Elrich

cc: Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee