



January 28, 2021

SUPPORT SB 0414 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

Dear Mr. Chair and members of the Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee,

GARY G. ALLEN
President

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Vice President for
Development

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Vice President for
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The Bill before you is a defining set of actions to address and mitigate the relentless rise in CO2 emissions and the accompanying changes to long term weather patterns called climate. These effects can be addressed through near-term mitigation actions and through long term adaptive behavior. Taken together and looked at strategically, they form the basis for the bill as drafted. While not perfect and not sufficient without accompanying actions in other states. This bill is a bold, ambitious and essential set of actions to strengthen and prioritize state programs to address CO2 reduction.

We are particularly mindful of the role trees can play in the work. The benefits of tree planting for water and air quality are widely known and supported. Trees are no less important as a natural carbon sink and properly sited and managed through the practice of good silviculture to resist the many emerging threats to their health and growth offer a proven, affordable and essential component to our state's climate strategy. Planting and managing millions more trees will provide a steady stream of economic and health benefits for Maryland families both now and in the future. We would be pleased to provide greater detail on appropriate management and maintenance strategies based on our work across the state.

We strongly support a favorable report on the "Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021". Maryland needs to pass legislation to plant more trees, manage them for health and growth, combat climate change, and mitigate the growing impact of climate change.

Gary G. Allen
President, Maryland Forestry Foundation
marylandforestryfoundation.org