

LISA M. FERRETTO, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, Eco-Districts AP, GGP

January 26, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support for SB 414, Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

Dear Chairman Pinsky and members of the EHEA Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 414, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021. Last session, this bill was known as SB926 /HB1425 and passed both senate committees and never made it to the House due to Coronavirus.

I am a sustainability architect and advocate, and am a member of both the AIA, American Institute of Architects, as well as USGBC, the U.S. Green Building Council. I served as a member of the MD Green Building Council (MDGBC) for three years and am now currently a Sustainability Commissioner for Baltimore City.

The Climate Solutions Now Act, is bill that ensures Maryland is a partner and a leader in Sustainability. It acknowledges the interconnected issues and strategies involved in undertaking climate change - buildings, transportation, site, and most importantly, the people. This bill requires a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2045. These goals work towards the targets of the newly reentered Paris Climate Agreement as well as those set by Architecture 2030 and adopted by the AIA.

Building operations account for 28% of the annual global greenhouse gas emissions, and if you consider the impact of building materials and construction, that number jumps to about 40%, ([Architecture 2030](#)). This bill will require all new buildings to be solar ready and energy efficient. The energy efficiency reduction targets step up with each energy code cycle and reaches zero energy by 2033. Major renovations will also have two paths to reduce energy consumption. All new State buildings will be required to be zero energy and each school district will be on a path to have one zero energy school. This aligns with what our neighboring states are also requiring for public projects. To assist with any potential additional cost of reaching zero energy for schools, there will be a no interest net zero school loan paid back with the energy cost savings of the school. This bill also provides provisions for property tax exemptions, updates to the utility energy savings program, and clarifies and restores the intent of the High Performance Building Act by closing the funding loophole and removing unnecessary language.

In addition, SB 414 addresses the climate connections to transportation and site. The transportation sector accounts for 23% of the annual global greenhouse gas emissions and this bill requires that the State's fleet will be 100% zero emissions by 2030. The bill also requires landfill air monitoring, and the planting of five million trees by 2030 with a certain percentage required to be in urban areas.

The Climate Solutions Now Act also recognizes the crucial link with social environment and communities. The bill talks of the social cost of carbon and sets up a Just Transition and Retaining Working Group. It sets new goals for the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities. It requires a report

on jobs and training needed as well as “recommendations to address environmental justice concerns.... [to] build climate equity and resilience within communities disproportionately affected by climate change.”

As a sustainability architect and advocate – I am excited about SB 414, the Climate Solutions Now Act, and the positive impact this bill will have. It ensures that Maryland is doing its part to meet the climate targets needed; holds the State accountable; and protects our State’s finances, the natural environment, and most importantly, the people.

I look forward to the favorable passing of this bill as *Now* is the time to *Act on Climate Solutions*.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Ferretto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa M. Ferretto, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, Eco-Districts AP, GGP