



January 28, 2021

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 414 – *Climate Solutions Now Act*

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

350 Montgomery County supports SB414, the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021.

Globally, we are at a critical choice point that will determine the course of our future forever. **Just yesterday, Majority Leader Schumer advised President Biden to declare a national emergency for the climate crisis.** (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/schumer-suggests-biden-should-declare-climate-emergency/ar-BB1d5D34>).

Climate change is already here and doing catastrophic damage. **There can be no more excuses for failing to take drastic action immediately - including funding.** We cannot afford not to act. And we have the tools, resources and knowledge to do such.

This bill includes:

- Ensuring Maryland is in line with the current climate science by committing us to a 60% reduction in carbon emissions below 2006 levels by 2030 and to reaching net zero emissions by 2045
- Restructuring our approach to climate justice by mandating that a percentage of all future climate spending must go to “disadvantaged” communities in terms of climate change, a term to be defined by experts and stakeholders
- Ensuring that labor voices are represented in our planning process, and that jobs benefit those who need them most
- Taking several immediate steps to reduce emissions, such as planting 5 million native trees by 2030, electrifying state vehicles, requiring several net neutral buildings and mandating energy efficiency increases

The effects here in Maryland have been a drastic increase in nuisance flooding, high heat days and storm surges. We believe that Maryland is ready to embrace the new green economy.

We encourage a FAVORABLE report for this essential legislation.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

Jeffrey Weisner
President, Steering Committee
350MOCO@gmail.com, 350MoCo.org