

124 South Street #3
Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone : 301-717-1579
Website : www.marylandforestryboards.org



Kumar P. Barve
Chairman, Environment and Transportation Committee
Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen street
Annapolis, MD 21401

April 9, 2021

Chairman Barve,

Regarding HB 583 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021, the Maryland forestry community is in awe of the wide support and significant strengthening of the forest provisions in the House's amendments. We are particularly pleased to see a commitment of new state resources for tree plantings. Your Committee is to be commended for the commitment and support it has given to green infrastructure as part of urban landscape in this Bill. Their recognition that with strong backing, good management, and new resources, trees and forest cover can be as an important part of our climate solution as they have long been valued for Bay water quality.

Because fossil fuels power virtually every aspect of our economy and daily lives the transition to decarbonization is very challenging. Bold, strong, and significant policy, program and systems changes are required if Maryland is to make greater progress. HB 583 is a significant step forward and we support that. We also note that even this work may fall short of what may be needed in the years ahead. A goal of 50% GHG by 2030 is a down payment toward the greater goal of net zero by 2045. HB583 is however an excellent, and remarkable step forward. One of the hardest lessons I have had to learn in my career, as a local elected official and then an advocate, "the perfect is the enemy of the good."

This is a bill that provides a strong foundation for future action. We strongly request the Committee and House move HB 583 as amended forward this session of the General Assembly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary G. Allen".

Gary G Allen, President
Maryland Forestry Foundation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Bardsley".

Jim Bardsley, President
Maryland Forestry Boards Association

GARY G. ALLEN
President

ERIC SPRAGUE
Vice President for
Development

SANDRA SPARKS
Vice President for
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