



Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

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Testimony on HB 583 –
HB 583: Climate Solutions Now Act
Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) supports HB 583.

Congregations of many faith traditions all across Maryland are taking action on the climate crisis because we are heartsick knowing that our climate pollution is hurting our neighbors, here and throughout the world.

It is simply not just that all of us, and especially communities of color, our elderly, and our young people, have paid the price for that pollution. Marylanders have paid for dirty energy with our health. We've paid when a disrupted climate exacerbates storms and brings flooding, like the *two* "hundred-year" floods that hit Ellicott City in the past five years.

That's why people of faith are taking action—installing solar panels on houses of worship and buying clean energy for our sacred spaces, planting trees in our communities to clean our air and absorb climate pollution, and changing our transportation habits by riding public transit and buying electric vehicles.

In houses of worship across the state, clergy and lay leaders are sharing the message that another world is possible. The Climate Solutions Now Act is a way, here in Maryland, to take a meaningful step towards making that vision more real.

We can set a timeline for getting Maryland to net-zero climate pollution. We can plant 5 million trees, including 500,000 in overburdened urban neighborhoods. We can electrify our state vehicles, cleaning our air and reducing the number of childhood asthma attacks. And we can ensure that all of our communities benefit from and have a say in this process.

Maryland's faith communities are acting for our common home, for our neighbors, and for a clean energy economy. We call on our legislators to do the same.

We urge the committee to give HB 583 a favorable report.



The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, led by the Rt Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, gathered in Annapolis to advocate for a previous version of the Climate Solutions Now Act in early 2020.



People of faith from across Maryland gathered in Howard County to learn and take action on the Climate Solutions Now Act's previous iteration in January 2020.



People of faith participated in the Chesapeake Climate Action Network's "polar plunge" at National Harbor in early 2020 to support the Climate Solutions Now Act's previous iteration and its goal of keeping winter cold.



Marylanders gathered at Asbury United Methodist Church in Annapolis to advocate for the Climate Solutions Now Act's previous iteration in early 2020.



Hundreds of Marylanders, including faith communities, gathered in College Park in support of the Climate Solutions Now Act's previous iteration in December 2019. IPL-DMV's Director Joelle Novey called all those present to turn to a neighbor and share "Why does climate change matter to you?"