



March 31, 2021

HB0583 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021 - Favorable

Kirsten Hoffman for the Green Towson Alliance

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein and Honorable Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Green Towson Alliance (GTA) writes in support of HB0583 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021. We are a coalition of environmentalists who advocate for a greener, healthier, more beautiful community in Baltimore County. While our work focuses mainly on the Towson area, we are also concerned with the impacts of climate change - an issue that affects all Marylanders.

One of our main activities is tree planting in our neighborhoods and in downtown Towson. Towson is currently shown as a heat island on the NOAA Urban Heat Island study and is only becoming denser with many thousands of apartment dwellers. GTA has documented over 150 locations where trees can be planted downtown with more in our nearby neighborhoods. This bill could provide the impetus needed to mitigate emissions and improve public health with these plantings.

We have no time to waste. Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the nation to the effects of global warming, with flooding and record-breaking heat already regular occurrences. Salt water is already intruding on the Eastern Shore. We also support requirements for future climate legislation to consider equity and ensure a just transition for displaced fossil fuel workers.

This bill will put Maryland on a course to have net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 while investing in our most vulnerable communities. Please give your support to the passage HB0583.

Respectfully,

Kirsten Hoffman
for the Green Towson Alliance