

DANA M. STEIN
Legislative District 11
Baltimore County

Vice Chair
Environment and Transportation
Committee

Subcommittees
Chair, Environment
Natural Resources,
Agriculture and Open Space



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 251
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3527 · 301-858-3527
800-492-7122 Ext. 3527
Fax 410-841-3509 · 301-858-3509
Dana.Stein@house.state.md.us

The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Dana Stein in Support of House Bill 583

Chairman Barve and Committee members:

My 14-year old daughter recently said to me that her generation was inheriting all the troubles of climate change. She said that in December, when it was reported that November had been the hottest ever recorded globally. But she also could have said it at the end of July, when the 25 days of 90-plus temperatures in Baltimore broke a record dating to when Grant was President. Or August, when Maryland had tornadoes and torrential rain from Tropical Storm Isaias.

We know that the impacts of climate change are happening now, not in the future. Here are some photos that show this:

First is the famous Annapolis statue of Alex Haley. The youth he is depicted talking to are partly underwater. Annapolis had 18 days of sunny-day flooding in 2019, and many more are projected in the future.

Slide 2: Sunny day or nuisance flooding isn't limited to Annapolis. This is Cambridge on the Eastern Shore.

Slide 3: Also on Eastern Shore--rising sea levels are causing saltwater intrusion, which destroys farmland.

Slide 4: Then there's the disastrous flooding that hit Ellicott City, which had two 1,000-year storms in less than 2 years. Last year, there were so many hurricanes that we had to go through alphabet twice.

Slide 5: Climate change doesn't just make floods worse. It makes wildfires worse. This is a California community after one of last year's wildfires. California had 4 or 5 of its worst recorded wildfires in its history this past year.

Slide 6: This shows how recent years have been the hottest on record. 6 of past 7 years hottest on record.

Slide 7: This is route 50 in Prince George's County last September after heavy rains.

These photos show the challenges we face. We have environmental, public health, and public safety challenges. This bill addresses these challenges by having us reduce emissions by 60% by 2030, and to net zero by 2045, which is what scientists say we need to do to avoid much worse impacts of climate change.

The bill also has several steps to help us get there. The standards for EmPower increase from 2% to 3% per year. The bill requires the electrification of our state vehicle and bus fleet; it sets a net-zero emissions standard for new, state-funded buildings; it strengthens energy conservation standards for large, new buildings; and it strengthens efficiency standards for large buildings when major renovations are conducted.

In the area of sequestration, the bill provides \$500,000 each year to Healthy Soil programs, which help with farm productivity and sequestering carbon. And since the best available technology for sequestration is a tree, the bill authorizes the planting of 5 million trees over 8 years, including 500,000 trees in underserved urban areas to reduce the heat island effect and stormwater runoff.

The legislation also implements several Environmental Justice (EJ) initiatives. For too long, environmental justice hasn't been considered when designing policies to reduce GHG or in the design of adaptation policies.

This bill requires the existing Environmental Justice Commission to:

- Identify a methodology – based on various economic, social, and health considerations – to identify communities disproportionately affected by climate change; and
- Develop specific recommendations to address EJ concerns, reduce emissions of GHGs and co-pollutants, and build resilience in disproportionately affected communities.

The bill also establishes a Just Transition Employment and Retraining Working Group for the purpose of studying/advising on various issues/opportunities related to the transition to a clean energy economy.

There is a target sunset in 2025; so if the legislature feels we're moving too fast or too slow, the bill sunsets.

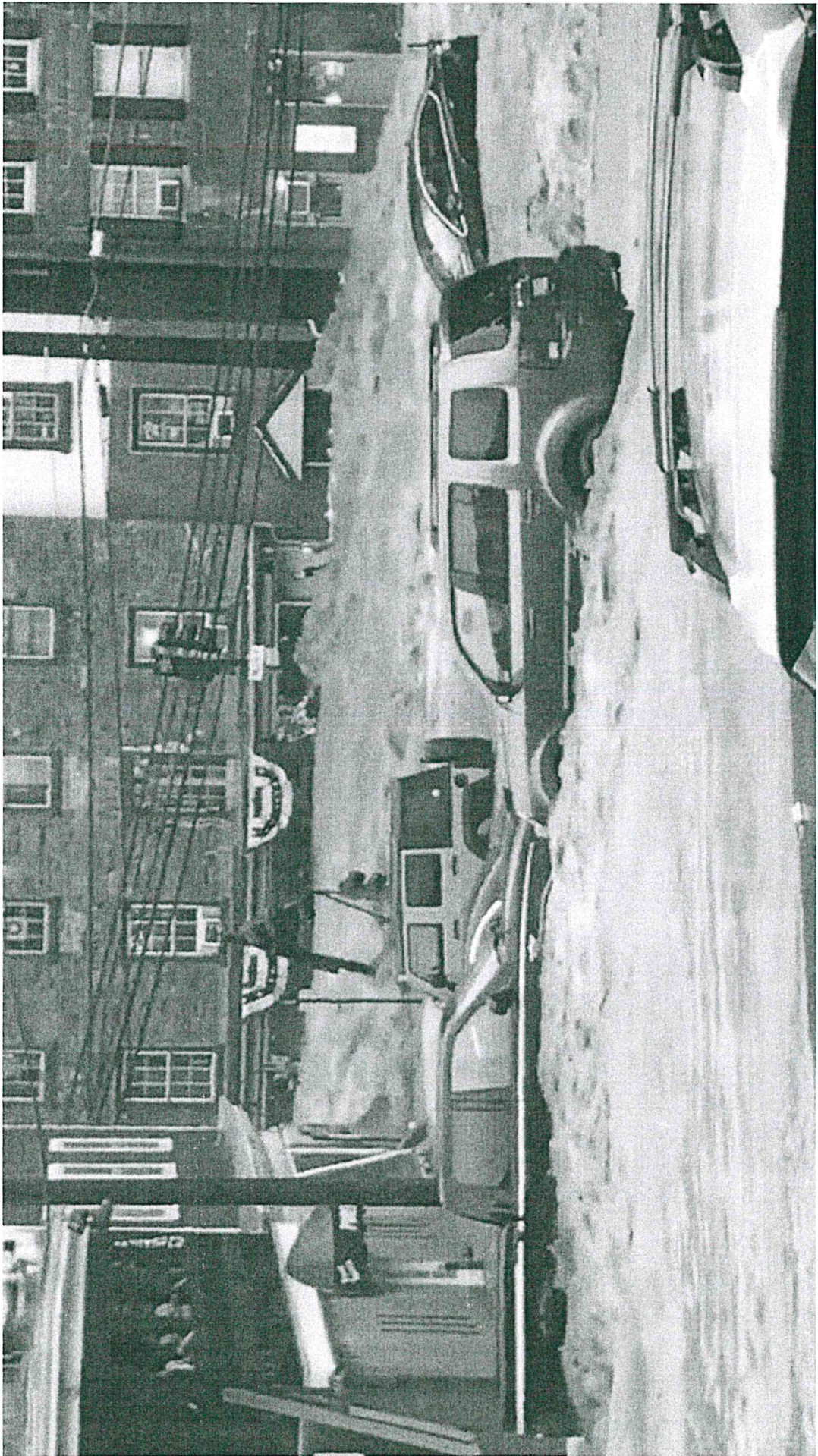


**We are in a
Climate
Crisis**



Coastal farmers in Maryland and
across Mid-Atlantic being driven off
their land as salt poisons the soil

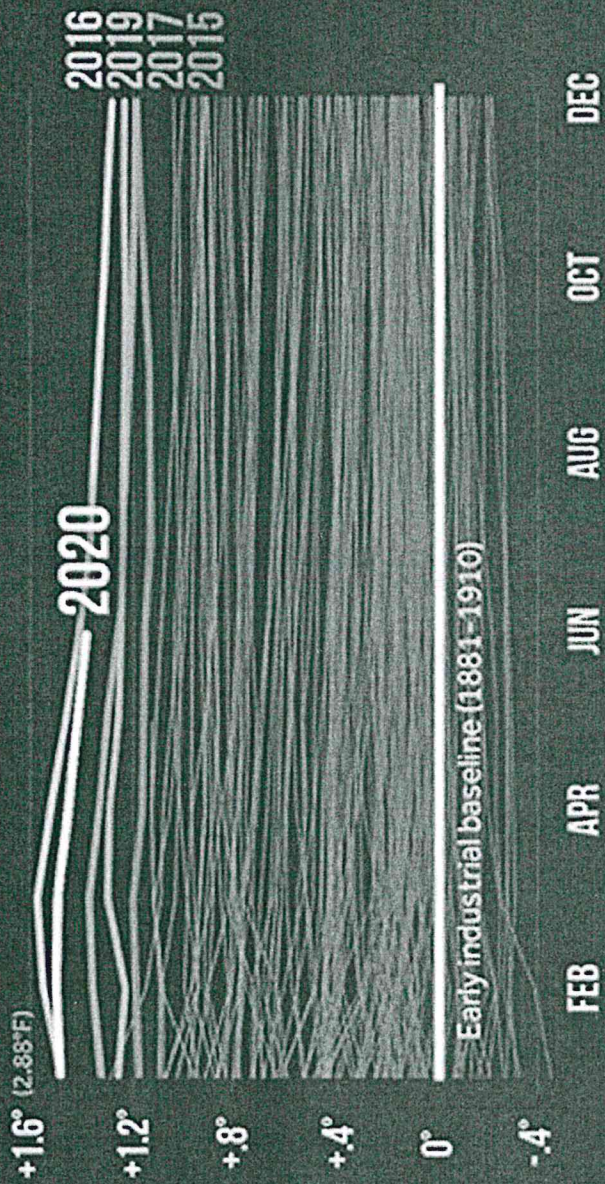






HOTTEST YEARS ON RECORD

GLOBAL YEAR-TO-DATE ANOMALIES (°C) SINCE 1880



Source: NASA GISS & NOAA NCEI global temperature anomalies, averaged and adjusted to early industrial baseline (1881-1910). Data as of 7/15/2020

CLIMATE CO₂ CENTRAL

