

**Committee: Environment & Transportation**

**Testimony on: SB414 - "Climate Solutions Now"**

**Organization: The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County Chapter (TCM)**

**Person Submitting: Nanci Wilkinson**

**Position: Favorable**

**Hearing Date: March 31, 2021**

**Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,**

**The Climate Mobilization of Montgomery County (TCM MoCo) is in favor of SB 414 and is opposed to any amendments which would weaken this bill. If anything, we would have strongly preferred the bill have more aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets.**

**In Montgomery County, for instance, the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan notes that 50% of the County greenhouse gas emissions are generated by buildings. It is critical the provisions related to the energy efficiency of buildings be maintained in order to meet the legislative climate goals of the state. This bill will greatly support the climate goals of Montgomery County as well.**

**According to the US Green Building Council "A growing body of evidence suggests zero energy buildings are possible today with no added upfront cost and make for smart investments. Utilizing readily available products, practices, and technologies, new zero emission houses, apartments, offices, schools, institutions, and labs are being constructed in increasing numbers. With state and utility rebates for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, these projects are being delivered at little or no additional first cost."**

**The Climate Mobilization Montgomery County initiated the Climate Emergency Resolution adopted unanimously by the Montgomery County Council in December 2017. The urgency of the Climate Solutions Act is evident in both the state and the county's effort to reach their climate goals. In fact, TCM MoCo resolves that the climate goals set by both the state and the county are not nearly strong enough to meet with climate emergency.**

**We therefore request a favorable report on SB414, with no weakening amendments.**