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BILL NO.: **HB 583**

TITLE: Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 11, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 583 – Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021. This legislation would boldly update sustainability goals for the State of Maryland by establishing a plan for emissions and pollution reduction for decades to come.

We are currently seeing the effects of climate change unfold; wildfires are sweeping the west, polar ice caps are melting at alarming rates, and global temperatures are rising to unsustainable levels. Maryland, as a coastal state, faces an imminent threat. Atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases have risen several thresholds above levels set forth by climate experts due to human-driven emissions. If efforts are not undertaken to curb these trends and proactively address climate change, the effects on the planet we are already experiencing will pale in comparison with what future generations of Marylanders will have to contend with.

HB 583 is bold, effective, and a significant step towards a sustainable future. This legislation requires the State to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gases by 2045. Using sweeping measures such as replacing gas powered state vehicles with electric vehicles, planting 5 million trees, and promoting sustainable construction procedures, the bill implements a comprehensive plan for reaching its ambitious goal. The time to act on climate change is now, and Baltimore County supports legislation that seeks to further the fight at any cost.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 583. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.