



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**HB 583
Support**

House Environment and Transportation Committee

February 11, 2021

HB 583 Climate Solutions Act of 2021

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The City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of House Bill 583, and urges favorable consideration.

This bill would accelerate the state's overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goal from 40% to 60% by 2030, with a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2045. Provisions address a wide range of state policies and actions to improve energy efficiency and solar-ready requirements for new and renovated buildings, increase carbon sequestration and improve climate resiliency through tree plantings statewide, green the state vehicle fleet, and address climate justice and job impacts, among other provisions.

Throughout Maryland, we can see that our climate statewide is dramatically and rapidly changing with devastating consequences, and that greenhouse gas emissions must be dramatically reduced in the very short term to address this. We must accelerate and expand efforts on the part of all levels of government, and the state of Maryland must take an aggressive leadership role and lead by example. Impacts statewide include more severe and frequent storms, greater rainfall, increased flooding, more frequent and extreme heat waves, sea level rise along our extensive coasts, and more. One significant impact in Takoma Park is more stormwater runoff more often, challenging the capacity of our older infrastructure. There's no time to waste.

Takoma Park has been a leader among Maryland communities in responding to the challenges of climate change and in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through our many local policies and actions. In 2019 the City declared a climate emergency and set a goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2035. Last year the City adopted a Climate Emergency Response Framework to move aggressively to implement that goal. We recognized the need for greater resiliency to address the impacts we are already experiencing, through our new urban forest policies. Our City is publicly committed to action on climate change through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sierra Club 100% renewable energy pledge.

To truly fulfill our City's commitments, and dramatically reduce our GHG emissions, we need strong state leadership and action to support us.

In sum, the City of Takoma Park supports the goals and intent of this bill, and encourages a favorable vote.