

March 31, 2021

Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 414: Climate Solutions Now Act

Dear Chairman Barve, Chairman Davis and Members of the Committees:

The undersigned organizations express their strong support for SB 414: Climate Solutions Now Act and thank Senator Pinsky for his leadership on this environmental community priority legislation.

Every year the urgency of the climate crisis grows more pressing, and our window for taking the aggressive actions to mitigate against the worst effects grows shorter. It is no secret that Maryland's more than 3,000 miles of shoreline and more than 265,000 acres of low-lying land make our state one of the most vulnerable to sea level rise and the effects of increasingly violent weather events. As the United States re-enters the Paris Climate Accord, it is critical that Maryland shows leadership in climate policy, to demonstrate to the rest of the country what is possible. The Climate Solutions Now Act puts us on this path, by advancing the following policies:

1. Increasing Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction mandate to 60% by 2030 and net zero by 2045;
2. Charging the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities with determining what percent of Maryland's climate funding must be spent in overburdened, underserved communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change emissions;
3. Creating a Worker Transition work group that will convene leaders in labor, industry, and policy makers to make recommendations to protect fossil fuel workers;
4. Planting 5 million trees, including 500,000 trees in underserved, urban communities;
5. Increasing our annual energy efficiency gains from 2% a year to 3% a year;
6. Improving air quality monitoring at landfills;
7. Requiring new state buildings to be net neutral and require efficiency gains in large residential and commercial buildings;
8. Purchasing new electric buses as the Maryland fleet turns over;
9. Prohibiting highway widening and unproven carbon capture and storage technology as emissions reduction pathways in our state climate planning;
10. Requiring accurate accounting of methane impacts and the use of best available scientific information in our climate plans.

This legislation is grounded in the understanding that climate justice is environmental justice. Climate change disproportionately impacts many low-wealth communities and communities of

color, including impacts to health, local environment, and income. This bill will directly assist these communities in three primary ways:

1. Reduce harmful carbon emissions in order to improve public health;
2. Ensure a portion of state climate funds are spent on environmental justice communities;
3. Help create jobs at all levels;
4. Invest in tree-planting, focusing on underserved urban communities

We strongly urge a favorable report on this essential bill.

350 Montgomery County	Emmanuel United Methodist Church, Laurel
Alliance for Livable Communities	Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian
Arden Group, LLC	Universalist Church
Arundel Rivers federation	Friends of Gwynns Falls Leakin Park
Assateague Coastal Trust	Friends of Quincy Run Watershed
Audubon Naturalist Society	Friends of Sligo Creek
Audubon Society of Central Maryland	Green Team at St. Vincent d Paul Church
Baltimore Blue+Green+Just	Green Towson Alliance
Baltimore Green Space	Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Baltimore Peoples Climate Movement	GreenGrace (Maryland Episcopal Environmental
Baltimore Tree Trust	Partners)
Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore	GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic
Bikemore	Grow Home
Blue Water Baltimore	Hall's Choice Farm, Ltd
Blueberry Gardens	Healthy Soils Frederick
Brooke Carroll Consulting	Howard County Climate Action
Call to Action Maryland	Howard County Conservancy
CEPA	Indivisible Howard County
Chapman Forest Foundation	Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake
Chesapeake Bay Foundation	Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund	Kinetic Artistry
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility	Kittamuaqundi Community Church
City of Annapolis	League of Women Voters of Maryland
Clean Air Prince George's	Lovelyarns
Cleanwater Linganore, Inc.	Main Street Oriental Rugs
Climate Change Working Group of Frederick County	Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human
Climate Law & Policy Project	Rights
Climate Reality Project Baltimore	Maryland Catholics for Our Common Home
Climate X-Change Maryland	Maryland League of Conservation Voters
Connecting the Dots	Maryland Legislative Coalition
Creation Care Action & Advocacy of the	Maryland Sierra Club
Baltimore-Washington Conference of UMC	Miche Booz Architect
Deering Health Associates	MLC Climate Justice Wing
Defensores de la Cuenca	MOM's Organic Market
Echotopia LLC	Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate
El Andoreigo Restaurant	Solutions

Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards
Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards- Frederick
CO
National Aquarium
Neighborspace of Baltimore County
Nuclear Information and Resource Service (for a
carbon-free, nuclear-free world)
OK Natural Foods
Parks and People Foundation
Patapsco Heritage Greenway
Pearlstone Center
Potomac Conservancy
Preservation Maryland
Prince George's Justice and Advocacy Council,
Archdiocese of Washington
Prince George's County Young Democrats
Public Justice Center
Quaker Voice of Maryland
Qualihall Endeavors
Rachel Carson Council
Rock Creek Conservancy
Safe Healthy Playing Fields
Safe Skies Maryland
Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends
Severn River Association
ShoreRivers
Southern Maryland Fair Skies Coalition
St. Matthews Catholic Church
Stony Run Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Strong Future Maryland
Sunrise Movement Howard County
Sunrise Movement (representing 7 hubs)
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Backyard Naturalist
The Biz Center Renewable Energy Incubator
The Community Ecology Institutes
The Green Commuter
The Wise Steward, Inc.
Transition Howard County
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of
Maryland
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
WISE