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BILL NO.: **SB 518**

TITLE: Environment - Office on Climate Change - Establishment

SPONSOR: Senator Klausmeier

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 10, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 518 Environment - Office on Climate Change – Establishment. This legislation would establish the Office on Climate Change in the Office of the Governor to centralize climate change efforts across state government.

Climate change is no longer a matter to be dealt with in the future, but is presently causing devastation and requires immediate action. All government needs to have a coordinated interagency plan to deal with this all-encompassing problem. Knowing this, County Executive Olszewski appointed Steve Lafferty as Chief Sustainability Officer within the Executive Office to coordinate environmental efforts across Baltimore County Government. Mr. Lafferty was able to work with all departments and launch the Baltimore County Climate Action Plan. This helped focus all county agencies to work efficiently towards the same sustainability goals.

HB 503 would instate a Climate Change Office to coordinate climate efforts with the authority of the Governor’s Office. This office would also assist local governments who request services to improve climate efforts in their communities. This will help ensure a sustainable future for all current and future Marylanders.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 518. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.