

Climate Solutions Act Now of 2021

Committee: House Environment and Transportation

Date of Hearing: March 31, 2021

Position: Favorable

Organization: Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry

The Environmental Justice Ministry of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church strongly supports the Climate Solutions Act Now of 2021 without any weakening amendments. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which humanity and nature are a part is a key UU principle. Without this principle, the destruction of our earth through unmitigated climate change may also be the final existential threat to humanity. Climate change is an emergency and Maryland must be a role model for sustainability and resilience to the world.

This Act will importantly increase our 2030 emissions reduction goal from 40% to 60% based on 2006 levels and get us to net zero emissions by 2045. While we would have preferred a much stronger greenhouse gas emission target, it is important that the building energy efficiency provisions are maintained in this bill in order to meet the legislative climate goals of the state. This bill will greatly support building energy efficiency of Montgomery County as well. The Montgomery County Climate Action Plan noted that 50% of the County's greenhouse gas emissions are generated by buildings.

This is a measured, bipartisan way for Maryland to retake its mantle as a national climate leader. Let's pass Climate Solutions Now in 2021 with no weakening amendments.